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Eccles. Top.
8° 53

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Scottish Parochial Registers.

MEMORANDA

OF THE STATE OF THE

PAROCHIAL REGISTERS OF SCOTLAND,

WHEREBY IS CLEARLY SHOWN THE IMPERATIVE NECESSITY FOR A

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF REGULAR REGISTRATION,

BY WILLIAM B. TURNBULL, ESQ.
ADVOCATE, F.S.A. SCOT.
&c. &c. &c.

"Is it upon *record?* or else reported
Successively from age to age?"—*Rich. III. iii.* 1.

"From what I have had occasion to observe, I conceive there is nothing of more importance than the endeavouring to deposit in some secure place the Registers of Births, Baptisms, and Funerals."—*Mr Baron Garrow.*

EDINBURGH:
THOMAS GEORGE STEVENSON,
87, PRINCES STREET.
M.DCCC.XLIX.

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

THE matter comprised in the text of the subsequent pages was originally intended to form part of a volume of *Origines Genealogicæ Scoticæ*, based upon the plan of Mr Stacey Grimaldi, and destined for private circulation among such of my friends who, like myself, amuse their leisure hours with questions of pedigree and topographical science. In order to this, I had began to note the dates at which the various records, both general and particular, commence; to point out the offices wherein they are deposited, and to exemplify the numerous ways whereby they may serve enquiry; foremost among which documents naturally come Parochial Records. But the prosecution of this had for more than a twelvemonth been interrupted by less genial pursuits, and had almost escaped my memory,—when the preposterous opposition and narrow-minded clamour elicited on the introduction to Parliament of the Bills for Registration of Births,

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Deaths, and Marriages, by Her Majesty's Advocate, (and factiously persisted in, despite of every effort at conciliation save abandonment of the principle,) induced me to set forth, by the plainest and most palpable evidence, the positive and urgent necessity for a legislative interference, as well as the impropriety of all attempts to thwart improvement in such matters. For this purpose, as the most violent antagonism to the Registration Bills has proceeded from a few of the Established Clergy of Scotland, supported by the selfish prejudices of certain county *lairds*, I select from the New Statistical Account of that country,* by the ministers of the respective parishes, the entire information which they themselves have supplied as to the state of the Parochial Records. This scanty, but of course accurate, testimony, defies gainsay.

It will, at a single glance, be obvious that the light thrown upon this vital point of statistics by the contributors to the new work, is of the most meagre quality; and, which is more to be regretted, it will be manifest that, with many marked and commendable exceptions, the value of this element of civil polity appears not merely to be unappreciated, but literally unperceived by the clergy. Hence, instead of deprecating its neglect, or specifying the absence or existence of a systematic registration in their parishes, we sometimes find them under the head of "Parochial Records" providing lengthy extracts from sessional records, containing incidents curious enough in themselves, and amusing to the antiquary, but quite remote from the great object for which the information sought at their hands was required.

* Edinburgh, 1845, 15 vols. 8vo.

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And it is somewhat painfully ludicrous, in one instance, to find the loss or imperfection of a session record lamented, on the ground that, had it been preserved, we might have expected to find some interesting notices of witches contained in its pages! Too frequently, indeed, does a preference seem given to the jejune chronicling of trite events of small moment, over the elucidation of matter essential to the health of the State.

While thus animadverting upon its imperfections in this respect, I must be understood as very far from seeking to undervalue the character, or to detract from the many high merits, of the New Statistical Account. Its defects, such as they are, necessarily arise from the constitution of the work. These are fully admitted and explained in a judicious and candid analysis which recently appeared in the magazine * of Messrs Blackwood, the liberal and spirited publishers of this aggregate intellectual labour; and who, notwithstanding the very heavy loss which they have sustained in bringing it out, would, I feel convinced, have no hesitation in consigning the whole stock to the flames, and producing such a work as the Statistical Account of Scotland should be, were the Government to lend its support, and afford the ordinary backing which the rulers of foreign nations invariably lend to enterprises of a similar magnitude.

The author of the article alluded to states thus concisely the result which a perusal of our serial excerpts will convey to an attentive reader, in regard to Parish Registers:

* No. CCCC. for February 1848.

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—"Every parish has a record of the transactions of its kirk-session,—sometimes extending to distant periods. * * * * Most parishes have also records of births or baptisms, marriages, and deaths. From these, and these only, this work could derive the elements of its important section of vital statistics; but how far were they fitted to serve that purpose? It is certain that they nowhere form a complete register of these occurrences, and that, for the most part, they are very defective. Baptisms appear to have been entered in the parish register, regularly till the year 1783, when the imposition of a small tax first broke the custom of registration; and, when that tax was removed, dissenting bodies were unwilling to resume the practice. The proportion of registered baptisms to births, for instance, is at the present time not more than one-fourth in Edinburgh, and one-third in Glasgow. The marriage register is also unavailable to statistical purposes, by reason of the practice of double enrolment—in the parish of each party. In many parishes, no record of burials exist; in others, those of paupers are omitted. In short, there is scarcely a country in Europe that does not, by proper arrangements, furnish better information on these important points, and no industry of individuals can remedy that defect. It is, therefore, among the postulates of such a work like this, for Scotland, that its vital statistics should be imperfect."

Yet, after all, admitting—as one is bound to do—the inevitable difficulties that hedge round a publication so planned, it is annoying to find that no fewer than 130 parishes appear in the Statistical Account, to which no return on the head of Parochial Records has been made by

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the incumbents. In order, as nearly as possible, to compensate for these blanks, I addressed a card of enquiry to the clergyman of each parish, where the omission occurs—with the exception of the three or four at *Ultima Thule* of Orkney and Zetland. The information received, in consequence of this application, I have duly inserted; and I here beg to return my thanks to the reverend gentlemen who have so kindly responded to my queries. It may be, that the strict attention paid to their duties has placed it beyond the power of the majority to accede to my request.* I am also, in several instances, under similar obligations to the session-clerks.

And now, when on the head of Parochial Records, the palpable inconsistencies of "The New Statistical Account of Scotland, by the Ministers of the respective parishes, under the superintendence of a Committee of the Society for the Benefit of the Sons and Daughters of the Clergy," are freely admitted, not only by the Committee itself and its worthy publishers, but attributed by them to "*the want of a system of accurate registration throughout the country:*"—when this "crying evil" is—as will be perceived in the text—repeatedly most strongly insisted upon by the very clergymen who drew up the reports, and who saw no other remedy for the disagreeable consequences arising from the defects of the registers, but "*the necessary interference of an Act of Parliament:*"—How, let me ask, can any synod, or presbytery, or kirk-session question the propriety, or reasonably demur to a measure so righteous in itself, and so essential to the welfare of the community?†

* To the 120 circulars posted, I have only received *forty-seven* replies.

† Since penning the preceding lines, a friend has directed my attention to

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I may here mention that in the extracts from the Statistical reports of which the text is composed, that urge the necessity for Parliamentary interference, the *italics* are my own. And, farther, that in *nearly all* the reports uniform complaints are made of the refusal or reluctance to register on the part of Dissenters. These, for the sake of brevity, I have omitted.

The want of a regular system of Registration in Scotland has been felt and complained of for many years. And no

the following paragraph in the bygone number of a periodical publication. I am not individually committed to the opinion of the "Daily News," in matters literary, political, or theological; but I am glad to have an opportunity of transcribing here the extremely sensible and judicious observations which its contributor has made in reference to the groundless and unseemly and impertinent objections directed against the measures in question:—"The satisfactory explanations of the Lord Advocate regarding his Marriage and Registration Bills have not had the effect of mollifying their opponents here. The more candid and intelligent of the party will admit that there are evils connected with the present system of marriage and registration, but then all the reform that they will concede is, that proclamation of banns and ecclesiastical solemnisation be made compulsory; and as for registration, the existing form is, in their eyes, immaculate, and only requires to be enforced by the terror of law in order to accomplish the objects contemplated by Government. The truth is, the two matters (questions) should be taken up as British questions, and no heed whatever paid to the prejudices of the parties in Scotland who have raised so much unnecessary uproar about them. The Scotch system of marriage demoralises English families; let England, as a matter of right, put it down—but in putting it down, let Scotch intolerance not be ministered unto by compelling those to marry after a religious fashion who laugh at all religions, and whose scepticisms will be irritated and not rebuked by obligatory sacerdotal rites. And as to registration, the purposes of legislation require that the vital statistics of Scotland, as an integral part of the empire, be obtained; and as the registration of England is confessedly superior to the effete system of Scotland, the latter must be assimilated to the former. Clergymen and schoolmasters will grumble, because incidentally their order may be affected, and county gentlemen will become patriotic at the imposition of £9,000 per annum, a tithe of the sum which they themselves squander by bad management of roads and other public trusts; but the thing must be done, and if Scotland is called on to pay for registration in precisely the same way that England has for the last ten years paid it, of what has Scotland really to complain?"

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marvel, when we find by the population abstract of 1801, that out of the 850 parishes in Scotland, that made returns to Government, only 99 possessed regular registers, the rest having made only occasional entries therein, or keeping no register whatever. Marriages were sometimes entered in many registers; and sometimes in none.

When Mr Thomas Thomson was Deputy-Clerk Register, his attention was earnestly turned to the subject of these Local Registers; and, accordingly, in his Report to the Commissioners of Public Records in 1810, he thus expressed himself:—"These (the Parochial Registers of Births, Marriages, and Deaths,) are nearly coeval with the present Ecclesiastical Establishments of the Country; and of their great utility and importance there is, and can be, but one opinion,—either in reference to private individuals, whose rights and interests are often dependent on the evidence they afford, or on public grounds, as illustrative of the progressive population and political state of the kingdom. It is, however, I believe, a matter of great and general regret, that the regular formation and safe custody of these small Local Records have been hitherto so little attended to, and so imperfectly provided for. They are committed to the immediate care and superintendence of the kirk-session of each parish, consisting of the minister and lay elders; and the session-clerk, who is usually the established parochial schoolmaster,* is the proper officer to

* One of the pretences for opposition to the Lord Advocate's Bill, was that this class of functionaries was wholly to be excluded from holding office under the Registrar General. How qualified these parties are, and how properly entrusted they might be with such records, may be judged of by the fact, that in numerous instances they have, for a small sum, or even *a dram*!—allowed the grossest interpolations of the registers. One particularly flagrant

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whom not only the formation, but also the Record is committed. It is certainly in the power, and in the proper province of the kirk-session, to see that the Record is faithfully and regularly framed; to take care that it be not unnecessarily exposed to hazard, and, that in passing from one session-clerk to another, no part of it be lost or mislaid; yet, when it is considered, that in comparatively few parishes are the existing records of greater antiquity than the beginning of the last century, and much less, it must be manifest, that the present system of custody is unsafe* and improper; and, without going farther into the sources of the original imperfections of such registers under the present system, it might be sufficient to mention, that they exclude nearly the whole of those who are Religious Dissenters from the Established Church of Scotland.

"To remedy these known evils, it seems undeniable, that some new regulations and checks must be resorted to; and it seems, at the same time, of considerable importance, that some new arrangements should be devised, by which these small Local Registers may be made more effectually subservient to those more public and permanent uses of which they are capable." †

Mr Thomson, in the same year, (1810) brought the sub-

instance I could mention, on the authority of a professional brother, whose case—a somewhat serious one—entirely broke down on the discovery of such tampering with the books. Of course that particular register was rendered altogether inadmissible as evidence in any other cause thenceforward.

* How true Mr Thomson's remark is may appear when I state, that there are now, or very lately were, to be seen in the Register House here, several leaves from the Session Register of a parish in Ayrshire, which, to save trouble, had been *torn out* and sent to Edinburgh for production in a process before the Court of Session!

† Fourth Annual Report, p. 46.

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ject before the Procurator of the Church of Scotland in the form of a letter, wherein he sketched the outline of a plan for better regulating the Parochial Records.* This, the Procurator submitted to the General Assembly, and its Committee "*highly approving*" of the object, appointed a Sub-Committee to take the matter into consideration. No fruit seems to have been plucked from this tree of knowledge.

It is altogether unnecessary for me to enter upon the value of Parish Registers. The "Observations" (now somewhat rare) of Garter Bigland, and—more recently—the three most interesting volumes of Mr Southerden Burn, have completely exhausted the subject. These latter works, indispensable to the lawyer, the statist, and the historian, ought to be in every well-appointed library; but, I fear, are too little known on this side of the Tweed. Mr Hubback's "Treatise on the Evidence of Succession to Real and Personal Property and Peerages," Part III., exhausts the merits of local records.

It will be remarked, that I have made no comments on the utility for mere genealogical or literary purposes of the Presbyterial, Synodal, or Sessional Records. Such would be more appropriate to the volume for which the present Excerpts were originally intended, and to which—should it be found that this finds any approval—I may yet apply myself. In like manner, if a re-impression of this small book should be called for, I shall endeavour to make it more complete, and shall feel obliged by receiving any

* Fourth Annual Report, p. 73.

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communications towards an end so desirable. As no *personal* profit will be derived from it, I may unhesitatingly solicit this courtesy.

In conclusion, I have much satisfaction in testifying to the care and attention bestowed by Master John A. Stevenson—the son of my publisher—in transcribing and arranging, in their due order, the various entries belonging to each county. It is extremely gratifying to find a youth of his years so zealously devoted to studies of practical utility, as well as of literary pleasure; especially when to these are added habits of order and method, with all becoming modesty.

EDINBURGH, *April* 1849,
25 *Great King Street.*

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PAROCHIAL REGISTERS OF SCOTLAND.

I.—Aberdeenshire.

[This county, extending from north to south forty-two miles, from east to west eighty-six miles, comprehends the districts of Mar (with its subdivisions, Braemar, Strathdee, and Cromar), Formartin, the Garioch, Strathbogie, and nearly all Buchan.]

ABERDEEN.—No return.—From 'Kennedy's Annals,' however, I find that the registers of baptisms, marriages, and deaths,—"commence soon after the Reformation, and have been kept with some degree of method and apparent accuracy to 1592, but after this date by no means so carefully."

ABERDOUR.—"The parochial register of this parish was supposed to be the oldest in the Church of Scotland, but, by some unaccountable accident, the most ancient part of it was lost about the year 1815, and what now remains commences at the year 1698. It is very regularly kept, but the baptismal register is very defective, owing to the extreme negligence of parents in getting their children's names inserted. *It is hoped that this evil will soon be remedied by legislative enactment.*"

ABOYNE AND GLENTANNER.—"The parochial register only extends back to 1752. It contains minutes of the kirk-session

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meetings, and a record of marriages and births, but not of deaths. The births have been very irregularly entered, from the neglect of some parents, and the disinclination of others, to have their children's names recorded."

ALFORD.—"The earliest entry in these is of date 1717. They have been very irregularly kept."

AUCHINDOIR AND KEARN.—No return.

AUCHTERLESS.—"The registers of marriages and baptisms commence in 1680, and have been regularly kept ever since, with some trifling exceptions."

BELHELVIE.—"The parochial registers begin in 1623. They are not voluminous, but appear to have been very regularly kept."

BIRSE.—"The date of the earliest register is 1699, from which time, for a period of eight years, it is kept with great exactness. From 1707 to 1726, the registers are either lost or have never been kept. From 1726 to 1744, they are kept regularly. From 1744 to 1765, they are again lost. From the year 1765, they are kept regularly up to the present day."

BOURTRIE.—No return.

BRAEMAR AND CRATHIE.—*Vide* Crathie.

CAIRNIE.—No return.

CHAPEL OF GARIOCH.—"The records of the kirk-session begin on the 9th of May 1714, and from that time to the present period, they appear to have been accurately kept. There are four volumes of these records. There are two volumes of baptismal registers, which have been rather irregularly kept till within these few years. They begin upon the 6th of May 1763. The register of marriages only commences in the year 1817; and there is no register of burials."

CLATT.—"The registers are by no means in a perfect state. The register of baptisms only commences in 1725, and, with slight intermissions, is brought down to the present time. Previously to 1820, there is no register of marriages, with the exception of the short interval between 1784 and 1798, and no record whatsoever of deaths is in existence."

CLUNY.—"There is a register of baptisms, which commences in 1761, but it has been irregularly kept. There is also one of marriages, commencing in 1722, which has been kept regularly; from that date the minutes of kirk-session have been recorded."

COULL.—"The earliest register commences 1752. Baptisms and

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marriages are recorded in it; but it has not been with much regularity."

CRATHIE AND BRAEMAR.—"They are neither voluminous, nor have they been regularly kept. The first of them commences with the ordination of Mr Adam Ferguson, on the 25th of September 1700, and appears to have been regularly carried on till 17th September 1710, after which date there is a complete blank down to 19th May 1716."

CRIMOND.—"The earliest date of these is 1718, from which time till now, the session records, containing cases of discipline and disbursements to the poor, have been regularly kept. The register of baptisms commences in 1743. At the present date, there is much culpable negligence in regard to the registering of births. Until very lately, no regular registry of marriages and deaths was kept."

CRUDEN.—"The parochial registers reach back only to the beginning of the eighteenth century."

CULSALMOND.—No return.—The clergyman writes to me,—"I have to state that the session records of births and marriages commence in the year 1735, and since that period have been kept in this parish, at times with some accuracy, and at other times less so. There is no record of deaths. Since I came into the parish, nearly fifteen years ago, I have kept a register of marriages; and all whom I have baptised, I have recorded gratis, as also all, of whatever denomination, who applied to have their children's names recorded. I found a reluctance among the poorer part to pay even the small fee of one shilling, and a carelessness as to registering baptisms, and therefore resolved to do the thing gratis to all. Taking a memorandum of the baptisms at the time, is the only way that can ensure a correct register."

CUSHNIE AND LEOCHEL.—*Vide* Leochel.

DAVIOT.—"The records are neither voluminous nor of an early date. The first entry in the record of baptisms appears to have been made on 10th March 1723; that in the poor's cash register on the 3d March 1731; and that in the record of discipline on the 30th May of the same year."

DEER (OLD).—"The parochial and session registers are incomplete. It is generally alleged that the registers anterior to the death of Mr Keith, the last Episcopal incumbent, and the settlement of Mr Gordon, 1710–11, were carried off. The

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Episcopal clergyman at Old Deer has or had in his possession a register of baptisms previous to that period, in a good state of preservation. There are no records of proceedings that stretch farther back; and, besides that most of the books seem at times to have been imperfectly kept since, there is many a hiatus to interrupt their continuity."

DEER (NEW).—"The session records commence 1705. A portion of them, from 1727 to 1734, is lost. Since that period they have been regularly kept."

DRUMBLADE.—"The oldest parochial register commences 1702, and ends 1738. It is simply a register of births and baptisms, containing no details. The period commencing 1743 is much fuller, and contains, along with such registers, a record of the session's discipline and diligence, down to 1790. From that time to 1821, the record had again passed into a simple register, with session's collections and disbursements for the poor, and the names merely of those submitting themselves to discipline, set over against the money-penalties which had been expected from them. With the exception of deaths and burials, of which there has been no register kept, the record has lately been much more full, and contains now a general entry of all that is ordinarily transacted in the session."

DRUMOAK.—"The registers are voluminous. The record of doctrine and discipline consists of eight volumes, all of which are complete (except the first, which wants two leaves at the beginning), from 17th September 1682, the date of the earliest entry. The baptism register (two vols.) was begun 3d January 1692, and the register of marriage contracts 2d June 1715; and, from these dates, both have been carefully brought down to the present day. A cash-book, in three volumes, contains an account of the intromissions of the session with the poor's funds, from Whitsunday 1750. No register of deaths has ever been kept in the parish."

DYCE.—"The parochial registers commence with August 1645, and are regularly kept up to January 1676, with the exception of eight months previous to December 1646. After 1676, there is a hiatus of fifty years. From January 1726, they are regularly kept up to the present time."

ECHT.—"The oldest register begins in 1642, and they appear to have been regularly kept. They amount altogether to fourteen volumes."

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ELLON.—"Some of the registers reach as far back as 1630, but there is a regularly kept continuous series of them only from 1711. They contain a record, more or less full, of the proceedings of the kirk-session, of the amount and distribution of the funds from time to time available for the relief of the poor, and of marriages and baptisms. From the negligence of parents, however, the register of baptisms is, in most cases, far from being complete. *A well digested legislative measure, enforcing upon parents attention to the duty of registration, appears to present the only effectual means of remedying the evil resulting from such negligence.* A register of burials, also, has been kept by the grave-digger for the last thirty years, but as this record respects only the numbers that have been interred in burying-grounds within the parish, it can furnish but imperfect means of estimating the actual amount of mortality."

FINTRAY.—"The oldest record belonging to the kirk-session begins on 25th May 1662, but only fragments thereof remain, scarcely legible, and all in loose sheets. With the exception of the register of baptisms, which appears to be pretty complete since the year 1728, the registers of this parish are rather defective. Minutes appear to have been kept, but seldom entered in a bound book, previously to the year 1795, since which time regular records have been kept."

FORBES and TULLYNESSLE.—*Vide* Tullynessle.

FORGUE.—"The oldest register extends back to 1637. There is a register of discipline, one of baptisms, and one of marriages; they are in a tolerable state of preservation, and appear to have been regularly kept."

FOVERAN.—No return.

FYVIE.—"The early parochial registers are very imperfect, and do not extend far back. The first entries of baptisms and marriages are in 1685, and the register of discipline commences in 1721. There are chasms in both till about 1760, from which period they are regular."

GLENBUCKET.—"The parochial registers, of late years, have been kept correctly."

GLENCAIRN, TULLICH, and GLENMUICK.—*Vide* Glenmuick.

GLENMUICK, TULLICH, and GLENGAIRN.—"The parochial registers are very defective, and not voluminous. The cash and discipline register begins 23d June, 1661, and ends 6th January 1677; then it begins again 11th December, 1687, and ends

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16th February, 1696; it begins again 22d March 1699, and ends 13th November 1726; then it begins 5th May, 1748, and ends 16th May 1760; it begins again 8th March 1768, and from this date it has been regularly kept. The register of baptisms does not begin till 6th November 1768. Previous to this time it is said to have been lost through the negligence of the relatives of the session-clerk, about the time of his death. The register of marriages does not begin till 4th June, 1792. Since these dates, the register of baptisms and marriages are entire; but it does not appear there ever has been any register of deaths."

GLENTANNER AND ABOYNE.—*Vide* Aboyne.

HUNTLY.—No return.

INSCH.—"The parochial registers, including kirk-session records and registers of baptisms and marriages, extend as far back as to the year 1683, but are not altogether complete."

INVERURY.—The session records of the parish date from 1716, and make up three volumes. They have been kept with sufficient regularity."

KEARN AND AUCHINDOIR.—*Vide* Auchindoir.

KEIG.—"All the early records were accidentally burned, excepting a part commencing in 1740, and ending in 1743, preserved and copied into the present books. The first regular entry is dated May 20, 1753; the registers of baptisms and marriages appear to have been correctly kept, but no notice has been taken of deaths."

KEITHHALL AND KINKELL.—"The register of births, or rather baptisms, in Keithhall, has been kept pretty regularly since 1678; but the oldest of them are a little frail. It is doubtful whether there were ever any similar registers for Kinkell."

KEMNAY.—"There are seven volumes of parochial registers, five of which are very thin, the oldest beginning with the year 1660. They seem to have been regularly kept, and the volumes themselves are in sufficient preservation, and are all legible. The two first contain a register of burials, which appears to have been discontinued early in the last century."

KENNETHMOUNT.—No return.—In reply to my queries the clergyman reports,—"That the parochial register of births or rather the date of baptism commences in 1720. That of marriages in 1768. No register of deaths has been ever kept in this parish. Upon the whole they have been pretty regularly kept,

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until of late years, when many had given up the registration of their children, unless those belonging to the Established Church."

KILDRUMMY.—"A register of discipline, marriages, and baptisms, with an account of the poor's money, was begun in 1675, and has been kept irregularly, blanks occurring occasionally for several years."

KINCARDINE O'NEIL.—"The registers of baptisms and marriages do not extend beyond the commencement of the last century; and, it appears, had for many years been very irregularly kept. Parents are very careless in not registering the birth of their children."

KINELLAR.—"The oldest register begins in 1640, containing the texts and discipline, but no separate register for marriages, baptisms, and burials was kept till a dozen years ago (1840)."

KING-EDWARD.—"The date of the earliest parochial register is 1704. The register was kept with considerable attention for some years, but for a very long period there were no entries in it. The register of baptisms commences in 1728, and the register of marriages in 1784."

KINKELL AND KEITHHALL.—*Vide* Keithhall.

KINTORE.—"The existing registers are not voluminous. They extend only to 1713, the date of their earliest entry. For the last ninety years they have been kept with the greatest apparent exactness and regularity."

LEOCHEL AND CUSHNIE.—"The records amount to eleven volumes, as follow:—1. Register of baptisms, marriages, and burials of Leochel, from the 22d December 1657, to July 27, 1709. 2. Register of discipline, collections, and disbursements of Leochel, from 23d November 1707, to 30th December 1739. 3. Register of baptisms of Leochel, from 4th June 1715, to 30th December 1768. 4. Register of discipline, collections, and disbursements of Leochel, from 6th January 1740, to 25th June 1768. 5. Register of baptisms of Leochel and united parish, from 3d September 1768, to 28th December 1829; and also of marriages, from 12th July 1769, to 7th July 1806. 6. Register of collections and disbursements of Leochel, from 6th July 1768, to 27th July 1801; and also of marriages and deaths of united parish,—the former from 1st August 1813, and the latter from 21st January 1823, to the present time. 7. Register of discipline of Leochel, and

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minutes of session of united parish, from 8th September 1782, to 10th April 1841. 8. Cash-book of united parish, from 19th October 1798, to the present time. 9. Register of baptisms of united parish, from 15th January 1830, to the present time. 10. Register of discipline, collections, distributions, and baptisms of Cushnie, from 25th April 1731, to 31st December 1769. 11. Register of discipline, collections, distributions, and baptisms of Cushnie, from 7th January 1770, to 27th July 1801. No register of marriages or deaths in the old parish of Cushnie is extant; and, except in a few cases, it is only since 1822 that the date of the births as well as of the baptisms has been entered."

LESLIE.—"The session records begin in the year 1699. A register of marriages and baptisms, and minutes of session, have been regularly kept from that time, but they are incomplete. No register of deaths has been kept."

LOGIE-BUCHAN.—"The sessional record of doctrine and discipline is extant, and regularly kept from 1697, with some fragments so far back as 1630 and 1640. Registers of marriages and baptisms are also kept, and extend from 1698; but the latter by no means comprehends all the births. The deficiency of our session records is, in so far, supplied by our presbytery registers. These begin in 1597."

LOGIE-COLDSTONE.—"Registers of baptisms and of church discipline have been kept since 1748."

LONGSIDE.—"The records of discipline and of the administration of the poor's fund, commence at the erection of the parish in A.D. 1620, are very legible, and continued till the present day, with the exception of four portions, viz.:—the four years preceding 1637, thirteen and a half years preceding 1663, nine years preceding 1722, and ten years preceding 1733. The register of baptisms extends (with a hiatus or two) from 1621, and those of marriages and interments (with like defects) from 1692 to the present time."

LONMAY.—"The parochial register begins *anno* 1709."

LUMPHANAN.—"The earliest entry in the parochial register was made in 1740. The proclamation of banns, and the income and expenditure of the session, have, since its commencement, been regularly recorded."

MACHAR (OLD).—"There are registers of births, marriages, and burials. They contain only the burials in Old Machar

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church-yard; but there are three other churchyards in the parish."

MACHAR (NEW).—"The oldest register extant commences November 1641, and ends 1650, in very bad condition; the second commencing July 30, 1676, and ending about 1700, contains, along with a record of the session's discipline, a register of baptisms and marriages. The register of discipline, however, in this book, comes up only to July 1688, when a third register was begun, wherein are recorded the cases of discipline, together with an account of the management of the poor's funds up to March 10, 1706. The registers which follow are in better preservation, and have, on the whole, been well and accurately kept."

MELDRUM.—"The date of the earliest parochial register is 1698; and there are regular documents preserved from that period to the present time, with the exception of one year."

METHLICK.—"The oldest register of church discipline and accounts of the poor's funds commences in 1683, and, with the exception of the years from 1689 to 1703, and from 1726 to 1729, is complete till the present day. The earliest date of the baptismal record is 1663; but it has not been regularly kept, owing to the neglect of parents in not attending to the registration of the births of their children. The marriages have been registered for many years."

MIDMAR.—"These consist of the kirk-session minutes, earliest date 17th April 1768; records of baptisms, 22d September 1717; records of marriage-contracts, earliest date, 18th October 1718."

MIGVIE AND TARLAND.—*Vide* Tarland.

MONQUHITTER.—"The registers commence in 1670 for baptisms, and in 1693 for marriages, and, with the exception of one or two chasms, have been kept regularly down to the present time."

MONYMUSK.—"There are six volumes of registers belonging to the parish, of discipline and baptisms, &c., including those now running, the oldest of which commences 18th August 1678. The oldest register of baptisms commences 27th May of the same year, and extends to 3d May 1685, from which time, till 19th October 1706, there is no record of baptisms. It is also interrupted at some other periods, owing, as is recorded, to the loss of notes by some of the clerks. The re-

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gister of baptisms is not very regularly kept at present, owing to the neglect of parents in not having their children's names recorded at the proper time, and many of them not at all."

NEW DEER.—*Vide* Deer (new).

NEWHILLS.—No return.

NEW MACHAR.—*Vide* Machar (new).

OLD DEER.—*Vide* Deer (old).

OLD MACHAR.—*Vide* Machar (old).

OYNE.—"The session records commence in 1663, and consist of three volumes, containing accounts of the poor's funds, church discipline, baptisms and marriages, which last are now regularly registered. In the 'Scotsman's Library,' published by Mr Mitchell, various excerpts are given, professedly from ancient registers of the parish of Oyne; but the originals of these are not among the books now in the keeping of the kirk-session, which, however, are not continuous from 1663 to the present time."

PETERCULTER.—"Regular registers of the baptisms, marriages, and deaths are kept; the earliest of which commences in the year 1674."

PETERHEAD.—No return.

PITSLIGO.—"The earliest date of the parochial register is 1676; it contains an account of session matters only. From 1720 the entries are more regular. No register of deaths was ever kept, and that of births is very irregularly kept.

RATHEN.—No return.

RAYNE.—"The session records commence in 1672, and amount to ten volumes, comprising accounts of the poor's funds, church discipline, and register of births and marriages, but none of deaths. The baptismal record has been regularly kept during the last twenty years."

RHYNIE.—"These have been irregularly kept."

SAINT FERGUS.—"The date of the earliest entry in the parochial register of births and baptisms, is the 1st May 1688. This register consists of three folio volumes, but till within the last fifteen years (1840) does not appear to have been regularly kept. The records of the kirk-session begin on the 1st January 1749. A register of deaths has been kept for several years."

SKENE.—"The oldest session record begins in the year 1676, and continues to 1696; the second, from 1709 to 1714; the third, from 1720 to 1744; after which year they have been

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regularly kept to the present time. The register of baptisms begins in 1726, and has been carried on to the present time. The register of marriages begins in 1756, and is continued to 1793; then there is a blank of twenty years; and from 1813, it has been regularly kept. A cash-book of the distribution of the poor's funds has been kept from the year 1744; and minutes of the meetings of heritors, for the last ten years, have been regularly kept."

SLAINS.—"The parochial register extends back only to the year 1722, and has not been very regularly kept, owing to the neglect of parents to register."

STRATHDON.—"The parochial register of births and marriages from 1674 to 1710 is carefully filled up, but the volume is in very bad condition. There are no regular books from that date till 1741, when a register of baptisms commence; but down to 1830, it has been very irregularly kept. A regular register of baptisms and marriages has been kept from the year 1830. No register of burials has ever been in the parish."

STRICHEN.—"There are some old registers of the kirk-session, as far back as 1676, and it appears a register had been kept, from 1701 to 1735, of marriages, and baptisms, and minutes of kirk-session. After that time, till 1785, (with the exception of the insertion of baptisms), no register appears to have been kept; or, if there had been any, they must be lost."

TARLAND AND MIGVIE.—"Parochial registers of baptisms and marriages are regularly kept in those parishes, and have been so since the year 1768. Prior to that period, no register or regular record of entry exists."

TARVES.—No return.

TOUGH.—"There are entries in the parochial register as far back as 1706, but it has since been very irregularly kept."

TOWIE.—"The register has been always regularly kept; the earliest entry in it is dated 1751."

TULLICH, GLENGAIRN AND GLENMUICK.—*Vide* Glenmuick.

TULLYNESSLE AND FORBES.—"The session are in possession of a register belonging to Forbes. Its earliest date is 1729, and latest 1752. Another of the same parish is in the hands of the minister of Auchindoir, which, it is believed, relates to the period from 1752 to 1808, when Forbes was annexed to this parish, and Kern to Auchindoir. The register of Tullynessle commences in 1760, and comprehends Forbes since the date of the junction. It appears to have been tolerably kept."

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TURRIFF.—"The register of baptisms commences in 1697, and of births and baptisms in 1797. These registers, it is to be regretted, are very defective, and, notwithstanding the numerous advantages of a correct record, and the trouble, expenses, and loss to which parties are frequently subjected by the neglect, there is such remissness in this respect somewhere, *that it would perhaps be well if a legislative measure, somewhat similar in its provisions to the Registration Act for England, were extended to Scotland.* The register of marriages begins in 1727, and is kept with regularity. There is a register of discipline commencing in 1816, but none of deaths."

TYRIE.—No return.

UDNY.—"A baptism and money register was begun about the year 1720, but have been very irregularly kept, especially the former."

II.—Argyleshire.

[This county comprises the districts of Argyle, Lorne, Cowal, Knapdale and Kintyre, with several of the western islands, of which the chief are Mull, Islay, and Jura. The greatest extent of the mainland, from north to south, is 115 miles, from east to west, 35 miles.]

APPIN AND LISMORE.—*Vide* Lismore.

ARDCHATTAN.—"The registers of births and marriages do not commence at an earlier date than 1758; and, owing to the negligence of parents and parties concerned, they have since been often irregularly kept. No records of the kirk-session were kept prior to 1819. These matters are now better attended to."

ARDNAMURCHAN.—No return.

CAMPBELTON.—The date of the earliest entry of the parochial register is 1682. It has been regularly kept since that period."

CARA AND GIGHA.—*Vide* Gigha.

COLL AND TIREE.—*Vide* Tiree.

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COLONSAY AND ORANSAY.—*Vide* Jura.

CRAIGNISH.—"The registers consist of the kirk-session record, and the register of births, baptisms, and marriages. The earliest date of the kirk-session record is the 5th February, 1745; and that of the first entry in the register of births, baptisms, marriages, is the 7th June, 1756. The latter was not regularly kept until 1791. From that period to the present it has been correctly kept."

DALAVICH AND KILCHRENAN.—*Vide* Kilchrenan.

DUNOON AND KILMUN.—"The registers consist of several manuscript volumes and scattered fasciculi of scrolls and portions of minutes and registers, irregularly kept, down to a modern date. The session book of the parish of Dunoon commences December 6, 1692; and, while designated as the session record of the parish of Dunoon proper, some of its sederunts show the heritors of the parish of Kilmun to have been also present, indicating that Kilmun had not then any separate ecclesiastical standing. Another session record of the united parishes of Dunoon and Kilmun commences anno Dom. 1695. This appears to be regularly kept till 1699. A *hiatus* then occurs from that period down to 1753, from which last date these records have been regularly kept. The register of births commences with the date of 1754, and appears during the earlier years after that date to be but irregularly kept, and is considerably mutilated. The register of marriages commences in 1742, and appears kept but imperfectly till 1754, and pretty regularly from that date till 1800, from which date both these registers are kept with perfect regularity."

GIGHA AND CARA.—"No register of births, marriages, and deaths of an earlier date than 1793, is to be found. Since that period the register has been kept with tolerable regularity, except in the years 1824 and 1825, in which years the register of births is incomplete."

GLASSARY.—No return.

GLENURCHY AND INISHAIL.—"There are two registers kept in the parish, one in each division, in which the births and marriages, the distribution of the poor's fund, and cases of discipline are recorded. The oldest is a fragment of the register of baptisms, which has been embodied in that which constitutes the first volume of the Glenurchy Register. The earliest entry is dated 1753. In the year 1765, a suitable volume was provided, in

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which the incumbent recorded every parochial event and occurrence which he deemed of any importance. The volume, however, has not been kept in the best preservation, nor does it furnish a very correct record of baptisms and marriages. It is, notwithstanding, from the circumstance already stated, an interesting volume. The record of Inishail parish dates from 1765. The kirk-session of Muckairn having, from time immemorial, till recently, been in the habit of exercising a pastoral superintendence over a district of the parish of Inishail, in the neighbourhood of that church and parish, and to which it was annexed *quoad sacra*, during the time of the Commonwealth, all the births and marriages, and cases of discipline, that occurred in that district, were inserted in the register of Muckairn, as they are still."

INISHAIL AND GLENURCHY.—*Vide* Glenurchy.

INVERARY.—" The registers consist, 1st, of the records of baptisms and marriages, vol. i. extending from 1651 to July 8, 1688; vol. ii. from December 1699 to December 1763; vol. iii. from January 1764 to January 1790; vol. iv. from July 1790 to December 1817; and vol. v. from January 1818, to the present time. There is also a volume in bad order, which belonged to the kirk-session of the Highland congregation, extending from 1730 to 1735. 2d. The records of the kirk-sessions of the Highland and Lowland congregations, these being, *first*, the records of the former in one volume, extending from May 1701 to February 1729, and, *second*, the records of the latter, vol. i. extending from November 25, 1650, when that congregation first obtained the services of a separate minister, to August 29, 1662; vol. ii., a small quarto, in bad order, from 1677 to 1683; vol. iii. from 1699 to 1724; vol iv. from 1724 to 1745, is lost. 3d. The records of the united sessions of the Highland and Lowland congregations, vol. i. extending from May 1745 to March 1755; vol. ii. lost; vol. iii. from August 3, 1777, to December 8, 1813; vol. iv. from 1814 to January 26, 1831; and vol. v. from 1831 to the present time. The records of the presbytery of Inverary, and of the synod of Argyle, though not limited to this parish, may, perhaps with propriety, be here stated to be as follow:—The records of the presbytery of Inverary, before the Revolution, are lost, having probably been removed during the troubles of the times, or been taken, like those of the synod of Argyle,

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into the keeping of the bishop of Argyle, though not recovered, as the latter were. The oldest record, beginning October 13, 1691, is the tenth after the restoration of presbytery, but the minutes of the previous nine meetings are torn out. It extends to the 25th February, 1702; vol. ii. begins April 1715, and is complete to 27th September 1725, when there is a chasm to 7th August 1731, and it ends January 15, 1745; vol. iii. is from March 26, 1745, to 17th May 1763; vol. iv., from April 27th, 1769, to 12th September 1828; vol. v., from that period to the present time. The records of the synod of Argyle are, vol. i., from April 1639 to October 1651; vol. ii., from May 1652 to May 1662; vol. iii., from September 1687, to October 1700; vol iv., from 11th June 1701, to 29th July, 1707; vol. v., from 12th May 1708, to August 7, 1727; vol. vi., from 7th August 1728, to 11th August 1755; vol. vii., from August 4, 1756, to August 11, 1765; vol. viii., from 7th August, 1776, to August 3, 1809; vol. ix., from August 4, 1809, to the present time. The three first volumes have been copied in a more legible form, and in a modern hand, and of these the synod possesses duplicates."

INVERCHAOLAIN.—"The register of births commences in 1737, but is in an imperfect state; of marriages, from 1761, equally imperfect; but accurately kept of both from 1771. There is no register of deaths."

JURA.—"The earliest entry in these registers is dated January 1810. Those prior to that date were lost. From that period they have been regularly kept, with an addition, since the year 1825, of an obituary and register of discipline, in which the proceedings of the kirk-session are recorded. The register of births and marriages in COLONSAY bears an older date."

KILBERRY AND KILCALMONELL.—*Vide* Kilcalmonell.

KILBRANDON and KILCHATTAN.—"There is a volume of session records beginning with the year 1753, and continued, though not very regularly kept, till 1793. Owing to some cause not well explained, the following volume was lost or destroyed twenty years ago. The parish register has been regularly kept since 1826."

KILBRIDE AND KILMORE.—*Vide* Kilmore.

KILCALMONELL AND KILBERRY.—"Parochial registers do not seem to have been kept till the year 1780."

KILCHATTAN AND KILBRANDON.—*Vide* Kilbrandon.

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KILCHENZIE AND KILLEAN.—*Vide* Killean.

KILCHOMAN.—"Registers have been kept in this parish only since 1822. For several years a register of marriages and baptisms was regularly kept; but since the Parliamentary churches, with the districts annexed, were erected into parishes *quoad sacra*, the minister at Portnahaven baptises and marries without having the names of parties entered in the parish register."

KILCHRENAN AND DALAVICH.—"The session records or minute books are from 1707 to 1731, and from 1755 to 1843. Register of births, from 1710 to 1723, and from 1751 to 1843. Registers of marriages, from 1707 to 1723, and from 1755 to 1843. They have all been regularly kept since 1803."

KILDALTON.—"The first registers kept were lost, and those now in existence were very irregularly kept, until within the last fifty years; but the present register is regularly kept."

KILFINAN.—"The registers are not of very old date, and they were not, in former times, carefully kept. They consist of different volumes, containing the minutes of ordinary meetings of session, register of births and baptisms, and register of proclamations and marriages. They have been pretty regularly kept since June, 1742, till the present year, with the exception of the marriage register which commences in March 1779."

KILFINICHEN AND KILVICEUEN.—"There was no register of any kind kept in the parish until the year 1780, when the then incumbent commenced one, but that only extended to marriages and baptisms. There being no less than thirteen burial places in the parish, and at a great distance from each other, and from the incumbent's residence, deaths were not recorded."

KILLARROW AND KILMENY.—"There are four parochial registers, —1st, Marriage register, commencing November 15, 1789; 2d, Baptism register, commencing November 17, 1789; 3d, List of poor, and state of poor's funds, commencing June 13, 1819; 4th, Kirk-session minute-book, commencing March 6, 1823; all regularly kept from the respective dates of their commencement, Any thing previous to these dates consisted of mere scraps."

KILLEAN AND KILCHENZIE.—No return.—The clergyman writes to me,—"I have to inform you, that the records of the united parish of Killean and Kilchenzie, presbytery of Kintyre, have been regularly kept. The records of baptisms commence in-

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the year 1760, and marriages in 1783, both dated before my incumbency. I never baptize a child, or marry a couple, till such time as an extract of registration is laid before me by the parties concerned. It appears from our books that the records of marriages were accidentally burned, along with the school-house, in the year 1783, which accounts for the difference of dates in each register. I have no further remarks to make."

KILMADAN.—"The register of births and baptisms commences in 1737; marriages in 1737; church collections in 1745; church discipline in 1745. They have been regularly kept for the last fifty years."

KILMARTIN.—"The earliest date in the kirk-session records is the 25th May 1691. Down to 1751 it is imperfect; from that date to the present time it has been regularly kept. The earliest date in the register of baptisms and marriages is 1747; but the record is very imperfect down to 1774. From the latter date to 1819, there is no record of baptisms and marriages extant. From 1819 to the present time, it has been regularly kept."

KILMELFORD AND KILNINVER.—*Vide* Kilninver.

KILMENY AND KILLARROW.—*Vide* Killarrow.

KILMORE AND KILBRIDE.—"The parochial register commenced in October 1783, and has since been regularly kept."

KILMORE AND KILNINIAN.—*Vide* Kilninian.

KILMORICH AND LOCHGOILHEAD.—*Vide* Lochgoilhead.

KILMUN AND DUNOON.—*Vide* Dunoon.

KILNINIAN AND KILMORE.—No return.—The clergyman writes to me as follows:—"I have to acquaint you that the register of births and marriages in the parish of Kilninian commences in the month of September 1766, when my immediate predecessor was admitted minister of the parish. From that date, till his death in 1810, the register was regularly kept by him. I succeeded to the parish in 1810, and have taken charge of the register ever since. In consequence of severe indisposition with which I was afflicted from 1836 to 1840, and which disabled me from all parochial duty, there is a blank in the register for that period, but I am not without the hope of being still able to recover at least some of the births and marriages that occurred in the interval. No register of deaths has ever been kept in this parish. It may be right to mention that when two parliamentary churches, namely, that of Tobermory and

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of Ulva, were erected in this parish, the births and deaths occurring in the districts attached to these parliamentary churches, have, since the month of August 1828, been recorded in separate registers, kept by the ministers of these churches."

KILNINVER AND KILMELFORD.—"The earliest date of the parochial registers is 1758. If any were kept previous to that period, they are irrecoverably lost. Till within the last twenty years, there was but one register for both parishes; but the distance between the two places rendered such an arrangement inconvenient; there is, therefore, one kept in each. These are under the immediate inspection of the kirk-session, and from time to time examined by the presbytery of the bounds, and consequently are regularly kept."

KILVICEUEN AND KILFINICHEN.—*Vide* Kilfinichen.

KNAPDALE (NORTH).—"The earliest date of the parochial register of births is 1775; the earliest date of the register of proclamation of marriages is 1784; but both registers are exceedingly defective. From 1816 they have been regularly kept down to the present time."

KNAPDALE (SOUTH).—"Registers of births and marriages have been kept in the parish since 1771; though entries appear to have been correctly made, the book containing the registrations has not been well taken care of, some of the leaves having been lost, and the whole much sullied. Since the appointment of the present incumbent in 1806, every attention has been paid to them."

LISMORE AND APPIN.—"The registers in this parish are by no means voluminous, nor do they seem to have been well kept. The first volume contains sixty pages of foolscap 4to, sewed in a cover of brown paper. The first entry is dated at Kilmaluag, the 23d day of November 1757, and the volume served exactly for ten years."

LOCHGOILHEAD AND KILMORICH.—"The registers commenced in 1692, and for a considerable time were diligently kept. Afterwards the entries, excepting for marriages and baptisms, became more irregular."

MORVERN.—"The registers are regularly kept, but they do not extend to a very early period, nor are they voluminous."

MUCKAIRN.—"The earliest entry is in 1760. These registers have been kept irregularly during the greater part of that

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time; more recently there has been an improvement in this respect.'

NORTH KNAPDALE.—*Vide* Knapdale (North).

ORANSAY AND COLONSAY.—*Vide* Jura.

SADDELL AND SKIPNESS.—"There are two separate parochial registers kept in the parish, one for the Skipness and the other for the Saddell district, generally under the management of two of the schoolmasters. Of late years they have been kept with great accuracy, but formerly they were much neglected, and a portion of them either lost or destroyed. The date of the Skipness register commences in the year 1783, and that of Saddell in 1746."

SKIPNESS AND SADDELL.—*Vide* Saddell.

SOUTHEND.—"The register extends no farther back than the year 1765. The old registers were unfortunately destroyed by a fire which accidentally took place in the study of the gentleman who was then clergyman of the parish, the Rev. David Campbell; but since that period the register has been regularly kept."

SOUTH KNAPDALE.—*Vide* Knapdale (South).

STRACHUR AND STRALACHLAN.—"There are no registers in existence bearing date prior to the year 1753. During the succeeding twenty-eight years, they were not punctually attended to. Since then, however, they have been regularly kept."

STRALACHLAN AND STRACHUR.—*Vide* Strachur.

TIREE AND COLL.—"The register of Tiree extends back only to 1775, the earliest entry being dated 16th January of that year. It appears, from some written documents, that all the parish records previous to that period were sent to Edinburgh, in order to ascertain certain disputed dates relative to a legal process then carrying on, and were lost, or at least never returned. They do not seem to have been very regularly kept till 1814."

TOROSAY.—"The first entry in the register of baptisms was in the year 1793, and the first in the register of marriages in 1807. They are not, of course, voluminous; but since their commencement, they have been very regularly kept."

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III.—Ayrshire.

[This county, which is about sixty miles in length and twenty-six in breadth, comprises the districts of Carrick, Kyle, and Cunningham.]

ARDROSSAN.—"From a memorandum in one of the volumes, of date 1755, it appears that registers of baptisms, from May 28, 1682, till May 23, 1725, had been regularly kept, but which have been lost. From 1742 till 1787, lists of baptisms and marriages have been regularly kept, and with a little interruption at this period till 1802, from which last date till 1816 they are very imperfect; but they have since been kept with great accuracy."

AUCHINLECK.—"Previous to the appointment of the present schoolmaster, these were not very regularly kept; and they go no farther back than to about the beginning of last century."

AYR.—No return.

BALLANTRAE.—"The parochial registers do not reach farther back than 1744, and contain only marriages and baptisms. They are not in a good state of preservation till near the end of the century: since then they have been kept with greater accuracy and care, though still there is no register of the deaths."

BARR.—No return,—but the clergyman informs me,—"that there have been no records kept in this parish, except of births and proclamations. These commence on the 22d March, 1689. They are all engrossed in one volume, which has been kept by the session-clerk, and there appear to be no blanks."—"The registers are not very exact and faithful, many parents neglecting their duty in the registration of their children; and of deaths there is no register."

BEITH.—"The earliest volume of the Beith register commences in 1659, and ends in 1758. It is imperfect, and for some years no entries are made; sometimes births, baptisms, and mar-

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riages are entered promiscuously. Of late years, the register has been kept with greater accuracy and care, but there are comparatively few births registered."

COLMONELL.—"The register of births commences in 1759, and there are no sessional records of older date than 1786."

COYLTON.—"The session records extant commenced on 6th February, 1723. Baptisms and marriages have been registered for upwards of a century. The earliest registration of births is dated 15th February, 1725; and of marriages, 29th May, 1725. Since that time, these registers have, with few exceptions, been regularly kept. The present session-clerk has kept, with great accuracy, a register of deaths for the last fourteen years."

CRAIGIE.—"The parochial records, are, 1st,—A register of births and baptisms. The first baptism recorded is in 1679, and for many years this register appears to have been irregularly kept. The births commence to be recorded along with the baptisms in 1807, and from that time the record is kept pretty regularly. 2nd, A register of proclamations of marriage, commencing in the year 1679,—not regularly kept till 1776. 3d, A minute-book of the transactions of the kirk-session from the year 1775, kept regularly. 4th, Cash accounts of the poor's funds from 1788, regularly kept since 1804. 5th, Minutes of meetings of the heritors, commencing in the year 1787."

CUMNOCK (OLD).—"The register of baptisms begins in 1704. There are blanks in it from 1706 to 1724, from 1739 to 1740, from 1746 to 1751, and from 1752 to 1753. The baptisms only are recorded up to the year 1768. After this period, the births also are, for the most part, entered along with them. A few only of the dissenters register their children. The register of proclamations for marriage begins in 1758; but, up to the year 1782, no notice is taken of the marriages. Subsequent to this period, the date of the marriage is also entered. No register of deaths is kept."

CUMNOCK (NEW).—"The earliest entry in the parish registers is dated 1709; but the register has not been regularly kept, till within these few years."

DAILLY.—"The parochial registers, and the records of the kirk-session, have been uniformly kept together. They occupy seven volumes. The first volume includes the period from April 1691 to the year 1711, and is perfectly legible, but in some

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places much decayed. There is reason to believe that, during the early parts of the last century, the registers were not accurately kept. From the year 1751, every attention has been paid to them."

DALMELLINGTON.—"The most ancient account of parish transactions is to be found in the session-records. The first date of them is 7th March, 1641. For twenty-one years they were exceedingly well kept, and very voluminous, and again for the same period, at the beginning of the last century.—The register of births and marriages begins at the same date, and, except during 'the time of the curate,' as the last period of the Episcopacy is usually designated, all the records of which are a few scarce readable entries of baptisms, it has been, with little interruption, well kept to the present day."

DALRY.—"The earliest existing registers are of births and marriages, and commence in 1683, but have not been regularly kept till 1724; from which period they are complete till the present time. The records of the transactions of the kirk-session commence in 1693, and, excepting a blank from 1701 to 1717, have been most accurately kept to 1765. From that time till 1821, it appears that the minutes of session were written on detached slips of paper, and, as might be expected from such a slovenly practice, they have all been lost."

DALRYMPLE.—"The parochial registers of births and marriages, and the minutes of the kirk-session, commence in 1699. The register of deaths commences in 1739, and ends at 1793. A new volume, however, was begun in 1816.—The whole have been kept pretty regularly."

DREGHORN.—No return.

DUNDONALD.—"The registers of this, as in most other parishes in Scotland, from the accidents of time, but more especially from the slovenly way in which they have been originally kept, are in a very imperfect state. The oldest volume, containing the records of session, and bearing date 1602, is tolerably entire; indeed, much more so than any of the succeeding ones. It extends over a period of forty years, comprising a silent interval of sixteen years, and contains a great deal of parochial information that is curious and interesting.—The minutes of session, after the conclusion of this volume, till within the last few years, have been very carelessly and imperfectly kept. The next entry after 1643, is in 1702, the commencement of another volume. And for more than half a century after this date, there

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are scarcely ten consecutive years of their transactions recorded. The register of baptisms, extending to four volumes, begins in 1673; that of deaths, in one volume, in 1763; and that of marriages, also in one volume, in 1823. The first of these is, in comparison, tolerably correct. But the other two are very incorrect, *and hopelessly so, until more stringent measures are taken to compel the people generally to attend to such matters.*"

DUNLOP.—"The register of proclamations commences in 1700, and that of baptisms in 1701. With the exception of two or three short intervals, they have been kept with extreme inaccuracy till the year 1780. Since that time they have been kept with great regularity."

FENWICK.—No return.—The clergyman writes,—"that the registration of births, marriages and deaths, commenced in the year 1691. I have not discovered any blanks, and the records seem to have been kept in an orderly and correct manner. All the dissenters do not register."—"During many years, there has been no register of deaths preserved, and only a partial one of births."

GALSTON.—"The parish records are very imperfect and mutilated previous to the date of 1692, from which date there is a regular series of baptisms and minutes of session. The earliest entry is dated 1568."

GIRVAN.—"The parochial registers commence in 1733, since which period a pretty regular account of births has been kept; but of marriages and deaths the account was very imperfectly kept, down to the year 1825, when a correct record of marriages commenced; but a record of deaths is still wanting."

IRVINE.—No return.

KILBIRNIE.—"The register of baptisms and marriages commences in the year 1688. A blank occurs between the 9th July 1724, and the 5th December 1725, 'in consequence,' as is stated on the record, 'of there being no schoolmaster during that period;' and another, from the same cause, between the 10th January 1731, and the 16th March 1732. Again, the register of marriages, from the 3d July 1729, to the 15th June, 1738, has been lost, but from this date to the present time, there are apparently no omissions. The registry of deaths begins in 1753, and is preserved entire. Minutes of the kirk-session commence also in 1688, but there is an unregretted gap in these impure records, excepting some illegible scraps, extending from 1725 to 1791."

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KILBRIDE (WEST).—"The registers of this parish commence pretty early, are very complete, and in good preservation; certainly much more so than is usually the case with such documents. The register of births begins November 6, 1691, and is regularly continued to the present time. It is to be noted, however, of this record, that at no time has the law been uniformly complied with, many births never having been entered at all; *which of course very much lessens its value to the community.* The registry of marriages is continued from 1693, and is preserved entire. Minutes of the kirk-session commence February 15, 1716, and now occupy nearly two thick quarto volumes."

KILMARNOCK.—"The earliest entry in the register of baptisms is dated 6th February 1644; but little seems to have been entered till January 1663. From that period, almost nothing is entered till January 1665; but there are many omissions till August 4, 1687, from which time it appears to have been regularly kept."

KILMAURS.—"The register of births and marriages commenced in 1688, but was not regularly kept till 1783."

KILWINNING.—"The earliest minute of session is dated 12th March 1656, since which time, with the exception of a few intervals, they appear to have been regularly recorded. The record of baptisms begins 27th April 1669, and that of proclamations, 14th July 1676, and both are continued, with few interruptions, to the present day. In recent times, the register of births is far from being complete, and there is none of deaths or burials."

KIRKMICHAEL.—"The sessional records were kept somewhat irregularly, till about the year 1711. The date of the earliest entry is 8th July 1638."

KIRKOSWALD.—"There are registers of births, baptisms, marriages, and deaths, all regularly kept."

LARGS.—"There is no regular record of births and baptisms prior to the Revolution, and long after that epoch the record was very imperfect. It has of late been better kept."

LOUDOUN.—"There are two parish registers. 1. Marriages. The earliest date of this register is 3d December 1673, and it has been kept regularly since November 1759. 2. Baptisms. Earliest date 16th October 1763; kept regularly since November 1759. Few dissenters register their children in this register."

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MAUCHLINE.—"The ancient parochial records are now lost.—The date of the earliest entry in the parochial register is 17th January 1670. The whole records of the parish are contained in ten volumes. Till about eighty years ago, they were most irregularly kept, being written mostly on detached leaves, so that they are almost useless."

MAYBOLE.—"The earliest entry of a birth is in January 1712; and the register of births is continued regularly from that date to the present day. The register of proclamations of banns and marriages is of a much more recent date, and does not seem to have been accurately kept. The earliest date of minutes of session is December 1777. A very accurate register of deaths, and the age and the diseases of the deceased, has been kept for the last few years; and the mode of furnishing a document so important, is at the same time so simple, that its general adoption is much to be desired. A small fee leads the church-officer to make the requisite inquiries at every funeral. The result is given into the kirk-session every Sabbath after sermon, and is then entered into a book. If there is any defect in the information, the elder best acquainted with the relatives of the deceased makes farther inquiry, and reports to the succeeding meeting."

MONKTON AND PRESTWICK.—"The parochial registers are the records of the kirk-session, and the register of births and baptisms. The earliest entry in the latter is in 1702. The former does not extend so far back, the earlier volumes having been lost. Both are now kept with considerable regularity."

MUIRKIRK.—"Before the year 1772 the parish registers are very imperfect and irregular; but since that period they have been regularly kept. The first entry is dated in the year 1739.

NEW CUMNOCK.—*Vide* Cumnock (New).

NEWTON-UPON-AYR.—"The registers have been regularly kept since the erection of Newton into a separate parish, which took place in 1779."

OCHILTREE.—"The registers of baptisms and marriages go back to the year 1641, but there was no register of deaths till about forty years ago. The registers began in 1641, were regularly kept for a considerable time, but were afterwards for a long period very much neglected. For the last fifty years they have been kept in a most regular manner."

OLD CUMNOCK.—*Vide* Cumnock (Old).

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PRESTWICK AND MONKTON.—*Vide* Monkton.

RICCARTON.—"The only registers existing, or which seem ever to have been kept, are the session records, commencing with the year 1695; the registers of births and marriages and the minutes of heritors' meetings. Except the registers of births and marriages, none seem to have been regularly kept; and it is only within these last ten years that the minutes of the heritors have been at all accurately kept."

SAINT QUIVOX.—"The parochial registers do not extend farther back than the year 1780, but since that period they have been kept with great regularity."

SORN.—"The parish registers commence in 1692, and have since been regularly kept. The register of baptisms is not by any means complete, as parents belonging to different dissenting bodies frequently neglect the registration of their children. Care, however, is taken to enforce this duty on parents belonging to the Establishment. There is no record of deaths, although the minister, in the course of his visitations, is in the habit of taking an exact account of them."

STAIR.—"The earliest parochial register is of date 1736; the early part not very correctly kept. A register of births and marriages has been kept since 1805, and one of deaths since 1815."

STEVENSTON.—"None of the parish registers go farther back than 1700, and many portions of them have been lost. The register of marriages has been regularly kept from April 1701 till May 1717; and from May 1737 till January 1746, and from January 1747 till the present time, February 1837. The register of baptisms has been regularly kept from July 1700 till November 1718; irregularly kept from 1718 till 1737; and regularly from 1737 till near the end of the century; but from that time to the present, it cannot be considered as regularly kept, as the dissenters do not record the names of their children. A register of deaths has been kept from 1747 till the present time; but for a considerable time, those only whose friends have paid for the mortcloth have been recorded."

STEWARTON.—"The registers of baptism and marriages have been preserved since 1693, though the first were not regularly kept till 1747, nor the second till 1794. The burials have been regularly recorded since May 1745. There is no dis-

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tinction of the sexes of children under twelve years. The minutes of session from 1757 to 1776, and from 1810 to the present time, are in good preservation. The minutes of heritors have been regularly kept since February 1774. Very few of the dissenters register; and *great are the inconveniences often felt from this omission.*"

STRAITON.—"The registers of the parish commence in the year 1644. They are regular in the registration of births and marriages, excepting during the reign of James, till 1770. From that period till 1825, they are very imperfect. During the last twelve years they have been kept with great care, embracing almost all that have been born or that have died within the parish, not, as is sometimes the case, only those that were baptised or buried in the parish. The session records begin in 1734, and, with the exception of a few years, about fifty years ago, are complete from that period."

SYMINGTON.—"The registers have been kept so far back as the year 1642, but very irregularly till about 1780."

TORBOLTON.—"The date of the earliest entry in the register of baptisms is 1730. The earliest minute of session is of date 1774. The register of baptisms is defective, owing to the carelessness of some parents in not having their children registered."

WEST KILBRIDE.—*Vide* Kilbride (West).

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IV.—Banffshire.

[This county extends from north to south fifty miles, from east to west thirty-two miles; but its average breadth does not exceed twelve miles. It comprehends a small part of Buchan and of Moray, and the districts of the Enzie, the Boyne, Strathdovern, Strathisla, Balveny and Strathaven, or Strathdown.]

ABERLOUR.—"A parochial register has been regularly kept since the year 1707, down to the present time, with the exception of some trifling blanks during the troublesome period of 1745. A registration of marriages, births and deaths, was uniformly made at the commencement of this period; but that of deaths has been discontinued for the last seventy-six years."

ALVAH.—"The records consist of one quarto and six folio volumes, and appear to have been regularly kept, in so far, perhaps, as the keepers were concerned. But, from the numerous applications for extracts of births and marriages which are not to be found in the registers, it is evident that, until within a recent period, both births and marriages have been very irregularly entered. Each successive keeper of these registers appears also to have made his entries after a form of his own, and in some cases, these entries are very defective in point of information. For instance the date of the baptism is often recorded without the date of the birth, and without mentioning the place of residence. The father's name is also often recorded without that of the mother; and residence or designation of witnesses, until of late years, appears never to have been noticed. These and other irregularities, it is believed, prevail to a great extent in our parochial registers, and should any change take place in the mode of keeping them, this is a point to which the devisers of a better scheme ought to be particularly directed. It might tend, perhaps, to secure uniformity and regularity, if the pages of our registers were uniformly printed, and draughted in the form of schedules, with

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spaces left to be filled up with dates, names, places of residence, and other essential details. Each page should also be subscribed by the name of the keeper of the register, and *every exertion made to enforce registration.* Our earliest recorded baptism is dated May 17, 1718, and the earliest minute of session, May 13, 1718."

BANFF.—"The earliest date of the registers is 1620. They are pretty voluminous, and seem to have all along been kept with regularity."

BOHARM.—"The registers commence in 1636, and except in the time of Charles II. and his successor, and another break, from 1784 to 1800, the session record is very full and complete. The registers of baptisms and marriages, however, are defective before 1800, and there is no register of deaths."

BOINDIE.—"The parochial register of baptisms appears to have been kept with considerable regularity from 1700, the date of the first entry, till about 1770. From this period till 1827, greater or less irregularity and incompleteness are observable. Till 1827, the marriage registers consist of only a few fragments, having reference to the beginning of last century. There is no proper register of burials."

BOTRIPHNIE.—"The parochial registers are now kept very regularly."

CABRACH.—"The oldest register extant begins in 1711, and contains registrations of baptisms and marriages, accounts of collections for the poor, and distributions, intermixed with the minutes of the kirk-session at intervals, till 1747; from which time, separate registers of baptisms, marriages, and matters relating to the poor's funds have been kept. The first is rather defective, owing to the negligence of parents; the other two are full and complete."

CULLEN.—"The records have been well preserved, and are in good order. With the exception of a *hiatus* of eight years, viz., from 1762 to 1770, the records of the kirk-session contain an uninterrupted history of its proceedings, from 1640 down to the present time. The register of baptisms and marriages commences in 1682, and is quite complete from that date."

DESKFORD.—"There are registers as far back as 1669; and the register of births and marriages is continuous from that time to the present. There is no record of the proceedings of the kirk-session earlier than 1684. The record continues to 1687.

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There is then a blank till 1694, from which time the record seems to have been kept with tolerable accuracy till 1731, when there is another blank till 1734. This is attributed to the carelessness of the session-clerk, who had left only 'a few confused scraps, which nobody could connect.'"

FORDYCE.—"The registers of discipline have been regularly kept since 1658, and of baptisms since 1665. The marriage register does not commence till 1723, since which time it appears to have been regular."

FORGLEN.—"The records of church discipline begin in 1659, and have been regularly kept till the present time, with the exception of five years after 1754. The register of baptisms and marriages is very imperfect."

GAMRIE.—"The registers extend no farther back than 1704. Since that time minutes of the kirk-session's transactions, and of the collections and distributions for the poor, have been regularly kept. Registers of baptisms are also preserved since that time; but in these there are very frequent omissions, owing to the neglect of parents; and parties are very *frequently subjected to inconvenience and loss afterwards, in consequence of these omissions.* A register of marriages has also been kept and preserved since 1757; but no regular account is kept of deaths in the parish."

GARTLY.—"Parochial registers of births and marriages have been preserved from about the commencement of the last century, and kept with tolerable regularity up to the present time."

GLASS.—"The registers of baptism, &c., reach no farther back than to 1750, and have been very irregularly kept till lately."

GRANGE.—No return.

INVERAVEN.—"There are three volumes of parish registers, the oldest commencing 1630, but all have been imperfectly kept. Few of the Roman Catholics seem to have inserted their children's births at any time, and now, scarcely any; and until of late, the Protestants were too negligent in recording theirs. Since 1640, no notice appears to be taken of burials."

INVERKEITHNY.—"There are registers of baptisms, marriages, and funerals, begun in 1721, but kept with no great regularity."

KEITH.—No return.—But the present clergyman informs me,—"that the register of baptisms in this parish commences 24th

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October 1686, and continues, without any blank, to the present time. The register of marriages commences 2d June, 1705, and continues to 14th July, 1772, when there is a blank to 6th August 1779. From that time it is continued regularly. There are no doubt a good many omissions from a *defect of the law*, or from the expense and difficulty of enforcing it, but in other respects the registers have been well kept. There is a correct register of funerals from 1st January 1829."

KIRKMICHAEL.—"The registers have been very imperfectly kept. There are no original records previous to the beginning of the present century. At that period, there were some fragments of registers of births and marriages, extending as far back as the year 1725. These were collected and transcribed about the year 1800, but there are considerable blanks in the manuscript. The earliest entry in the register of births is in the year 1725, and of marriages, in 1726. There are no records of minutes of discipline previous to the year 1810, and even since that period, these records have not been regularly kept."

MARNOCH.—"The registers are, 1st, Book of discipline, commencing in the year 1666, kept regularly, containing also the money transactions of the kirk-session, with regard to the poor; 2d, Register of baptisms, commencing in the year 1676, and kept regularly; 3d, Register of marriages, continued from 1672 to 1680. There is then a complete blank till 1773, but from that period the registration is regular."

MORTLACH.—No return.

ORDIQUHILL.—"The registers commence in 1704, and have been kept regularly from that date."

RATHVEN.—"The earliest records of discipline commence on the 25th December 1698, and have been very regularly kept till 1736.—From 1787 till the present time, these records have been regularly kept. Registration of marriages began at Whitsunday 1716, and that of baptisms in the same year. Great regularity has been observed in both from the above date, till 1746; but, from this time till 1791, and even down to the present day, many Episcopalians and Roman Catholics do not register their children. No registration of deaths has ever been kept in the parish."

ROTHIEMAY.—"The records consist of,—1. A register commenced 1601, which contains the minutes of the kirk-session, the collections made for the poor, and the distribution of the same.

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2. Fragments of a register, almost in loose leaves, without the beginning. This comprises the transactions of the session from the 1st December 1644, to the 16th September 1649. 3. The book of discipline of the parish of Rothiemay, containing all that was done and acted, either in church or session, since the visitation of the kirk of Rothiemay by the presbytery of Strathbogie, 19th September 1649, Mr James Gordon being minister thereat. 4. The minutes of the accounts of the parish church of Rothiemay, resting by delinquents or paid by such; as also a note of mortifications and church taxes, laid on for upholding the church for several years, together with the minute-book of the acts of the church-session of Rothiemay, beginning 16th August 1657. 5. The acts of the session of the church of Rothiemay since the 1st March 1662. 6. Session register of Rothiemay, beginning 23d May 1686.—*Soli Deo gloria in æternum.* It purports to be the register of acts, delinquents, and delinquencies, fines, absolutions and dependencies, which concern the discipline of the session of Rothiemay. 7. Register of marriages and baptisms, in very bad condition, commencing 1677. It is in loose and detached pieces, and wants the beginning and end. 8. The register of contracts of marriage and marriages within the parish of Rothiemay, since the 3d of January 1692. 9. The register of baptisms within the parish of Rothiemay, since the 27th May 1693. 10. The register of the minutes of the kirk-session of Rothiemay, containing collections made for the poor and the distribution of the same, commencing 2d March 1717. 11. The register of baptisms within the parish of Rothiemay, commencing January 1748, and of marriages within the parish of Rothiemay, from the year 1750. 12. The register of baptisms within the parish of Rothiemay, commencing January 1820. 13. A register of marriages within the parish of Rothiemay, commencing 20th January 1827. 14. Cash-book of the kirk-session of Rothiemay, commencing from 1800. 15. Minute-book of the kirk-session of Rothiemay, commencing 23d August 1827. In the old registers and minutes, commencing 1601, and continued to 1715, there are two considerable blanks, from 1630 to 1644, and from 1673 to 1686, for which years there is neither register nor minutes. There is a blank in the baptismal registers from 30th July 1710, till 1748, and in the marriage registers, from 22d July 1707, till the year 1750. In the minute and cash-book, from the 10th April 1735, till

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1800, and from 1800 till 1827, there are no minutes of church discipline. The registers of this parish are among the oldest, if not the oldest, within the synod of Moray. Though they appear to have been kept in general with great regularity, yet they have been preserved in a very careless manner. Considerable parts of them are lost, and the early baptism and marriage registers are in a very mutilated state. A few of the parishioners, impressed with the value of these records, are about to raise a subscription to have them re-bound."

V.—Berwickshire.

[This county extends from east to west thirty-five miles, and from north to south twenty-two miles. It comprises the Merse, Lauderdale, and Lammermoor.]

Abbey-Saint-Bathans.—No return.

Ayton.—"The history of the parochial registers is very imperfect. Those of births and baptisms, the only ones formerly kept, go no farther back than 1743, and even after that period they seem not to have been regularly kept until about 1770. They are by no means voluminous even at this day. No other register has been regularly kept."

Bunkle and Preston.—No return.—The clergyman writes to me:—"Our parish registers commence on the 30th June 1704, and they have been kept continuously to the present day; at one time by the minister, but for the most part by the session clerk. There is no register of deaths. The births and baptisms in the parish have been, and are still very partially recorded. All regular marriages are registered on account of the proclamation of banns in the church. Irregular marriages formed by dissenters are not recorded, as the parties do not come before the parish minister for censure. The reason which the lower classes assign for not registering births, marriages, and deaths, is, that they have no rich friends to leave them or their families money and property. It does

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sometimes occur, however, that some one or other of a family becomes prosperous, and leaves property at home or abroad, and then the want of a registration is occasionally inconveniently felt. *For this one reason alone, a general registration is a great desideratum.*"

CAMBUS (OLD) AND COCKBURNSPATH.—*Vide* Cockburnspath.

CHANNELKIRK.—" The earliest date in the parochial registers is May 30, 1650. They consist of five volumes, and have been regularly kept."

CHIRNSIDE. " The registers of this parish commence in the year 1660. They are on the whole regularly kept,—though the dissenters do not always record the births of their children."

COCKBURNSPATH AND OLD CAMBUS.—" The parochial registers consist of three folio volumes, containing an account of the births and marriages which have happened in the parish from December 18, 1642, to the present time. They appear to have been very regularly kept, particularly that of marriages; but within the last thirty years (1834), parents have become very negligent in getting the names of their children entered in the baptismal register."

COLDINGHAM.—" The first entry in the parochial register of the parish is in 1694,—the register has since been regularly kept."

COLDSTREAM.—" The earliest of the parish records is dated 1690. They have been all along kept with accuracy."

CRANSHAWS.—" The parochial register begins with 1731. It contains births, marriages, and deaths, and has been regularly kept."

DUNSE.—" The parochial register of baptisms has keen kept since 5th February 1615. The register is now regularly kept; but was not so in former times. It consists of the following volumes :—

	1, from	1615 to	1666.	4, from 1725 to	1778.
	2,	1666	1724.	5, 1778	1810.
Duplicate	3,	1666	1694.	6, 1810	1832.

There are five volumes of alphabetical indices to the above, from 1615 to 1832. The record of the kirk-session commences in 1720, and is continued in two volumes to 1738; after which it is continued till 1797, when the present incumbent was ordained. There are also a record of deaths or rather funerals, and a record of marriages, commencing at, and continued from, the above date, 1797."

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EARLSTON.—"The date of the earliest entry in the parochial registers, is the 30th September 1694. They are not voluminous, but are regularly kept, though for some years past parents have not been so attentive as before to the registration of births."

ECCLES.—"The earliest date of the parochial registers is 1698. The present incumbent introduced a great improvement in the mode of registration. Every two opposite pages are divided into ten columns, and each has a distinct title, stating the names of the parents, their residence, and profession, the names of the children, dates of birth and baptism, whether public or private, and the names of the witnesses. Two copies are preserved, one by the minister, and the other by the session-clerk."

EDROM.—"The early registers of this parish have been lost. It is said that they were accidentally burned a long time ago. The register of baptisms commences in 1720; a register of marriages in 1783. In the register of burials, there are only a few entries. In all of the registers there are mutilations till 1801,—from which period the register of births and baptisms has been regularly kept. This register, however, is far from being complete in regard to births."

ELLIM AND LONGFORMACUS.—*Vide* Longformacus.

EYEMOUTH.—"No parochial registers or sessional records exist in this parish dated previous to 1709. In a minute of kirk-session, dated 26th April 1716, the following statement occurs:—'Mr Johnston represented that the minutes of the session in his custodie, from the year 1713 to the year 1716, were taken away by the violence of the time.' From 1730, the entries in the registers of marriages, and of births and baptisms, are regular. Dissenters, however, do not generally register the names of their children."

FOGO.—"The earliest entry in the parochial registers is dated A.D. 1660.—The registers have not been so complete as could be wished,—the mother's name being omitted, which is sometimes as essential to her descendants as the father's. The registers have been lately new-modelled, and a register of burials added to those of births and marriages."

FOULDEN.—"The parochial registers have suffered mutilation, and had been long kept in a very slovenly manner. The earliest entry is dated 13th April 1682."

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GORDON.—"The first date in the parochial registers is the 11th of January 1652. They are on the whole regularly kept, especially of late."

GREENLAW.—"The date of the earliest entry is 1669. The registers are not voluminous, nor are they quite entire. They are now kept as they ought to be, and according to a prescribed plan."

HILTON AND WHITSOME.—*Vide* Whitsome.

HUTTON.—"The earliest date of the parochial records is 1649. They consist of five volumes, and with a chasm of twenty-eight years, viz.: from 1672 to 1700, they have been regularly kept."

LADYKIRK.—"The greater part of the parish records has been destroyed. One book, however, remains, the first entry in which is dated 1697; at that period these records appear to have been kept very confusedly,—births, marriages, and deaths, being intermingled with meetings of kirk-session. The records have been kept regularly only since 1817."

LANGTON.—"The records of session begin 10th September 1727, and reach to February 1733. From 11th of which month to 7th July 1747, they are lost. The rest have been preserved."

LAUDER.—"Of the state of the parochial registers no satisfactory account can be given. The register narrating the progress of discipline and church censure commenced in 1677, and was regularly continued till the 27th August 1688: then it has a chasm till April 1707, when it is again filled up for nearly two years, after which it exhibits another blank till May 1733, since which period the proceedings of the session are regularly recorded. The register of births and baptisms is equally defective, for in some years the entries are numerous, in some they are very few, and in others they are entirely omitted. This, though it now contains a complete list of the children baptised to members of the Established Church, is still imperfect, in consequence of the general neglect or refusal of dissenters to insert in it the names of their children. Hitherto there has been no register of burials, but it is resolved that this shall be the case no longer. The register of marriages has been well kept for a considerable number of years."

LEGERWOOD.—"The date of the earliest entry in the parochial registers is September 8, 1689. They appear to have been regularly kept, but are very meagre."

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LONGFORMACUS AND ELLIM.—No return.

MERTON.—"The earliest date of the registers is 1679. They have been very irregularly kept, and contain nothing of any importance."

MORDINGTON.—No return.

NENTHORN.—"The register of proclamations of marriage begins in 1702, and of baptisms in 1715. The deaths of every tenth year are marked from 1740 to 1780, and after that regularly every year till 1800."

OLD CAMBUS AND COCKBURNSPATH.—*Vide* Cockburnspath.

POLWARTH.—"More light might perhaps have been thrown on the biography and antiquities of this parish, had its parochial registers been in existence; but these were unfortunately destroyed about forty-five years ago; the schoolmaster's house where they were kept having been accidentally burned to the ground. It is proper to add, that the parochial registers have been regularly kept ever since."

PRESTON AND BUNCLE.—*Vide* Buncle.

SIMPRIN AND SWINTON.—*Vide* Swinton.

SWINTON AND SIMPRIN.—"The session register of Simprin commences 21st September 1699, that of Swinton on the 29th April 1696, and extends, in respect to the records of sessional business, to 1711, and in respect to baptisms, to the present day, excepting the short space of ten months in 1760. No regular register of marriages and deaths appears to have been kept until about seventeen years ago."

WESTRUTHER.—"The earliest entry in the parochial registers is dated November 27, 1655, just seven years after the erection of Westruther into a separate parish. The registers are not voluminous, extending only to three small volumes; and they seem to have been as regularly kept as appears to have been thought necessary in former times. Their greatest defect is the want of designations. There are many chasms, perhaps during vacancies, or when there was no schoolmaster."

WHITSOME AND HILTON.—"The earliest date is 1724. Till a recent period, births, marriages, and deaths, had never been enrolled in a regular shape." The clergyman observes that "even now, (1834,) owing to the *absence of an express law on the subject*, a complete register is impracticable. An important desideratum would be supplied by a uniform set of books."

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VI.—Buteshire.

[This county comprises the islands of Bute, Arran, the Cumbrays, Holy Isle, Pladda, and Inchmarnoch, in the Firth of Clyde, and has an area of about two hundred and fifty-seven square miles. The Kyles of Bute is eighteen miles in length, and three to five in breadth.]

CUMBRAY.—"There is a parish register which is regularly kept, but it extends little farther back than a hundred years, the date of its first entry being in October 1730."

KILBRIDE.—"No register for deaths appears to have ever been kept in the parish. Those for births and marriages commence in the year 1723, and come down to the present day; but till a very recent period they do not appear to have been kept with much regularity. The records of the proceedings of the kirk-session go back to the year 1704, and at one time they were pretty voluminous; but the volume commencing with the year 1750, and most of its successors, were lost about thirty years ago, by a gentleman to whom they were improperly lent to gratify an idle curiosity by their perusal."

KILMORIE.—"There are separate registers for session, baptisms, and marriages, kept at Kilmorie, Shisken, and Lochranza. Those of Kilmorie are the earliest, the fullest, and the most accurate. The others are kept for the convenience of the inhabitants, at places where, from the great extent of the parish, and the distance of the parish church, places of worship have been erected, and the ordinances are administered, either by the clergyman or his assistant. Those of Kilmorie commence in May 1701, and are regularly, fully, and beautifully kept till May 1729. From this date till 1762, they are lost, with the exception of the scroll minutes of session in 1736–7, on loose leaves stitched together, but almost illegible. From 1762 till the present date, they are regularly and carefully,

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though not very tastefully kept. The two first volumes, which are by far the most interesting, are quite loose in the binding, the edges much worn, and a good deal of the writing gone. The words that are lost could still be supplied from the context, but unless they are speedily transcribed, from the decaying state of the paper, they will soon be entirely destroyed."

KINGARTH.—"The parochial register commences in the year 1648, from which date it is continued, with partial interruptions down to the year 1703. It resumes in 1740, and is regularly kept till 1820, when it is again interrupted till 1827, from which period it is complete to the present time. It occupies five volumes."

ROTHESAY.—"The parochial registers have been kept with considerable fulness and care from 1691 to the present date"

VII.—Caithness-shire.

[This county extends from north to south forty miles, and from east to west thirty miles.]

BOWER.—No return.

CANISBAY.—"The registers commence in 1651, and were regularly kept till the Restoration. From that period down to 1706, there are no records of any kind whatever. The only other gap occurs a few years prior to 1747. From this latter date down to the present time, the registers have been regularly kept: all the births and marriages are registered: the deaths are not."

DUNNET.—"There has not been a register of deaths or burials kept in the parish."

HALKIRK.—"The old registers of this parish were destroyed many years ago, by some ill-disposed persons. The present one commences with the year 1790."

LATHERON.—"The earliest date of the parochial records now

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extant is 1755. They have been pretty regularly kept till 1770. There is then a chasm of nearly thirteen years to 1783, after which they have, with few exceptions, been correctly kept: especially since 1813, the entries are scrupulously correct."

OLRICK.—"The earliest date of these is 1700, since which period the record of session, including births and marriages, has been regularly kept; but no record of deaths seems to have been kept in this parish at any period."

REAY.—"The earliest entry in the parochial registers is dated 1745, but the registers were not regularly kept until the year 1783."

THURSO.—"The parochial registers, including the session records, extend to seven volumes, of about six hundred folio pages each. The first entry is 1648."

WATTEN.—"The parochial registers have been regularly kept since 1701, and are not very voluminous."

WICK.—"The records belonging to the kirk-session have not been well preserved. The earlier minutes of session have been lost. Those at present extant consist of five volumes. Of these, the 1st, which contains 237 folio pages, commences on the 20th of July 1701, and ends on May 13, 1723; the 2d, which contains 85 folios, begins on May 2, 1742, and ends on September 24, 1758; the 3d, containing 145 folios, begins on October 1, 1758, and ends on January 13, 1793; the 4th, which contains 139 leaves, and is a mere ragged fragment of a quarto volume, wanting both beginning and end, commences on the 29th October 1801, and terminates on February 9, 1816; and the 5th, in which the minutes of session are being recorded, commences on July 12, 1816. The baptismal registers, which have not been regularly kept, consist of six volumes, and commence on the 3d of November 1701. Up till a late date, the registers of matrimonial contracts, and of births and baptisms, were strangely mixed and jumbled together. The register of marriages commences on the 28th August 1840. There is no register of deaths."

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VIII.—Clackmannanshire.

[The length of this county from east to west is ten miles, its breadth from north to south eight miles.]

ALLOA.—"The register of baptisms and marriages, as well as the books of discipline, commence in February 1609, but all of them prior to 1664 are in a bad state of preservation, having apparently been much exposed to damp, and otherwise carelessly kept. The books of discipline, or records of session, are incomplete from 1746 till 1760, there being only the records of six years between these two periods; but from 1760 to the present time, they are complete. Parents are *becoming more and more careless as to the registration of their children, the want of which is frequently felt by individuals of every rank.*"

CLACKMANNAN.—"The records of the kirk-session commence in the year 1593, and being pretty entire from that period, are, of course, somewhat voluminous."

DOLLAR.—"The minutes of the kirk-session of Dollar commence in May 1701, and continue to the present time, with the exception of six years, viz., from October 1736 to May 1742, during which period no register seems to have been kept. There are three volumes of minutes, containing the transactions of the kirk-session, from 1701 till October 1834, with the above exception, and one in progress. The register contains nothing deserving of notice. It is entirely filled with notices of births, deaths, marriages, and cases of church discipline. The two first volumes are very carelessly kept. The names of the persons who compose the sederunt of the meeting are seldom given, so that it is difficult to ascertain who was minister at the time."

TILLICOULTRY.—"The earliest register of discipline is dated 1640; of baptism, January 1640; of proclamation, November

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1752; of burial, October 1753. They have been kept with various degrees of accuracy; and many parents have neglected to register the names of their children. The Devon Company having, many years ago, purchased ground in the church-yard, there are many persons from Clackmannan parish buried here."

IX.—Cromartyshire.

[This small county comprehends part of the peninsula called the Black Isle, stretching between the Firths of Moray and Cromarty, together with several detached portions surrounded by Ross-shire.]

☞ *Vide* XXIX.—Ross and Cromartyshire.

X.—Dumbartonshire.

[Anciently called the Lennox, or Levenax. It is of an irregular form; its greatest length (exclusive of the detached parishes of Cumbernauld and Kirkintilloch) is thirty-five miles, and its breadth from five to fifteen miles; the detached parishes, which were annexed to the county in the reign of Robert I., are twelve miles in length, and from two to four and a half miles in breadth.]

Arrochar.—"There are no registers of a more remote date than 1761. They are not voluminous, and have not been particularly well kept."

Bonhill.—No return.

Cardross.—"The only registers are those of births and marriages, which have been preserved since 1687."

Cumbernauld.—"The register for marriages and births begins 10th April, 1688, and though much decayed seems to have been accurately kept till 1722.—From the end of the 17th century to 1722, there are frequent interruptions; and down-

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wards, are total blanks in the registers; and in the same interrupted and irregular way the record is continued to 1801. From this time, it has been carefully and pretty regularly kept, though the number of registrations does not give the exact number of births or baptisms, which is occasioned by the Secession ministers keeping a register for their own congregations. There is no registration of burials before 1817. Since this time, one has been kept with great accuracy."

DUMBARTON.—"The registers consist of three sets; the minutes of sederunt; the register of baptisms and marriages; and the register of deaths. The minutes of sederunt consist of nine volumes, which are generally in good order, but are only complete from 1704. The earliest date is 1667. A volume of minutes bearing date about 1620, had fallen, by some chance, into the hands of an individual in town; the kirk-session, however, think that they will be able to recover it. There are six volumes of the registers of baptisms and marriages. The earliest date is 1642; and they are complete from 1701. The register of deaths consists of two volumes, the one from 1691 to 1749, the other from 1783 to 1795."

KILMARONOCK.—"These records consist of registers of baptisms, proclamations or marriages, minutes of kirk-session, and accounts of poor's money. The oldest book is a collection of detached leaves, perhaps fragments of several old books, which are now kept within two old boards, and contain entries of all matters connected with the management of the parish. The earliest date in it is 4th April 1647. The next in point of antiquity is a book containing minutes of session unsigned by the moderator or clerk, the first date of which is 29th January 1710, and the last 11th December 1771. No book for minutes of session has been kept from that date till 23d February 1834, the date of the earliest entry in the new minute book. The only minutes that have been kept during all that interval, and preserved till this time, are written on a few loose leaves: they do not exceed five in number, and are unsigned. The next in order is a register of baptisms, commencing 4th August 1731, which, with two other books, contains a continuous register of baptisms down to the present date. The entries in these books are not always made according to the exact order of their date, and many children in the parish have not been registered at all. They cannot,

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therefore, be said to be regularly kept. The only book containing a register of proclamations or marriages, and preserved to the present time, has for its date 15th November 1755, and contains a regular and continuous register to the present date. These, together with a book and some loose papers, containing accounts of money transactions relative to the poor's fund, form the entire records of church matters in the parish."

KILPATRICK (OLD).—"The registers for marriages and baptisms begin at 1688, and are regularly kept; but, from decay, are imperfect till 1740. The registry of baptisms does not, however, show the number of births, as the dissenters do not register their children's names."

KILPATRICK (NEW).—"The registers are imperfect, part of them having been destroyed in 1797, at the first balloting for militia. The date of the earliest entry is 6th January 1691; and from the 8th December 1755 the series is complete. There are two volumes of records besides those now in progress."

KIRKINTILLOCH.—No return.—The clergyman states—"that the parish register for marriages commences in 1657. It appears to have been regularly kept from 1657 to 1710. From that date till lately there has been no registration of marriages. The register of births is complete from 1657 to the present date. Until lately there has been no register of deaths. In the register of births there is an occasional entry of a death. From 1655 to 1710 the registers of marriages and births appear to have been entered carefully and correctly, but by inattention to binding, the books, though legible, are not in good repair. Registers for births, marriages, and deaths, have been carefully kept for some years. No fee is exacted for registering either marriages or deaths; but there are few applications to have them registered. The births of such children only as are baptised in the parish church are registered. The dissenters generally keep a register for their own congregations."

LUSS.—"The registers of baptisms and marriages from 1698 till 1735, have been very irregularly kept. From the last date till 1780, more care has been manifested. Since then, up to the present, they have been well kept."

NEW KILPATRICK.—*Vide* Kilpatrick (New).

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OLD KILPATRICK.—*Vide* Kilpatrick (Old).

ROSENEATH.—"The sessional records do not extend back above seventy years, and have not been regularly or fully kept. A pretty correct list of the births, marriages, and deaths, has been kept for the last twenty years."

ROW.—"In consequence of the very meagre and imperfect records of the parish, there is no means of ascertaining the populations at remote and regular dates."

XI.—Dumfries-shire.

[This county extends from east to west fifty-five miles, and from north to south thirty-two miles. It comprehends the districts of Eskdale, Annandale and Nithsdale.]

ANNAN.—"The register of baptisms commenced in 1703, that of marriages in 1764, neither of which were regularly kept till about thirty years ago. So imperfectly, indeed, had the register of marriages been kept for upwards of thirty years after its commencement, that the kirk-session, in 1797, found it necessary to resolve and enact, that in time coming it should be duly kept. An obituary has been punctually kept, for upwards of thirty years, by the parish sexton."

APPLEGARTH AND SIBBALDBIE.—"The earliest entry of baptisms is in September 1694,—of marriages December 1694, and of deaths 1777. From the first mentioned date to April 1715, the register is regular and complete; from that time to 1749, none were kept; from 1749 to 1777, it was kept partially, and from the last date to 1832, it is regular and complete, in all the three branches."

CAERLAVEROCK.—"The registers seem to have been kept, sometimes with more, sometimes with less accuracy."

CANONBIE.—No return.

CLOSEBURN.—"The date of the earliest entry in the parochial registers is 1726. From 1754 to 1777, there appears to have been no register at all. This omission has been in some

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measure supplied by the register of baptisms, from 1765 to 1776, kept by an individual who was church-officer during that period, for his own use. This little volume is now in the possession of the kirk-session, and in some important cases has furnished the information required. At present, the parochial registers are regularly kept. There is also an obituary, with a corresponding register of every disease that proves fatal."

CORRIE AND HUTTON.—*Vide* Hutton.

CUMMERTREES.—"The parochial registers of Cummertrees are not yet seventy years old; and, indeed, it is only within these three years that they have been kept in a regular form."

DALTON.—"The kirk-session of Dalton have in their possession an old book of session records, from the 18th August 1723, to the 1st September 1766, which contains a correct statement of the poor's funds. The registration of baptisms is very incorrect, but from the year 1769 a correct register of marriages, births and baptisms, has been kept."

DORNOCK.—No return.

DRYFESDALE.—No return.—The session-clerk informs me that—"the register of births commences in the year 1737, and is continued down to this date, without any blank of years; but many births have no doubt been omitted, during the whole period, especially of the children of those belonging to dissenting bodies. The register of marriages begins in the year 1833, and has been regularly and accurately kept, in so far, at least, as regards the proclamation of banns, the parties often omitting to register the date of the marriages, although no additional fee is exacted for that duty. No register of deaths has ever been kept in this parish."

DUMFRIES.—"The parochial records consist of twenty-five volumes, including the proceedings of the kirk-session, the record of which commences on the 17th of September 1635. The record of baptisms commences in 1605, of marriages in 1616, and of burials in 1617, in all of which the entries are regular."

DUNSCORE.—No return.—The clergyman writes to me:—"I have to state that the earliest date at which our parochial records of births, &c., commence, is 1777, and that for many years subsequent, they seem to have been most irregularly and imperfectly kept. Many blanks occur at different periods, and

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up to the period when my immediate predecessor began his ministry (1820), the system and practice of registration appears to have been very much neglected. Of late a great improvement has taken place. The record is well kept by our present session-clerk, although I regret to say that few, or none, of the dissenters in the parish find it to be their duty to register their children."

DURISDEER.—"The date of the earliest entry in the parish register is 20th July 1758. It was formerly kept very irregularly."

ESKDALEMUIR.—"The parochial registers reach back to 1703, when Eskdalemuir, formerly a part of the parish of Westerkirk, was erected into a separate parish. They are not voluminous, and have been regularly kept since that time."

EWES.—"Session records were begun to be kept in this parish so early as 1646. In the same year, the registration of baptisms and marriages commenced; and that of deaths in 1717. From 1646 to 1680 the records of baptisms and marriages have been correctly kept. In 1694 they were resumed by the prelates, and since that time to the present they have been kept with much accuracy, and preserved with great care. They are voluminous, and contain much curious and interesting information regarding the early discipline of the church."

GLENCAIRN.—"The earliest register is one of births and marriages, and commences in 1693; with a variety of deficiencies, it has been continued to the present time."

GRAITNEY.—"The parochial registers of baptisms, marriages, and transactions of the kirk-session, are extremely accurately written by Mr Galt (minister of the parish for sixty years), and pretty voluminous. They commence in 1730, and continue for sixty years, after which there is an almost entire deficiency in the minutes of session."

HODDAM.—"There is no register kept of the deaths which take place in this parish, but the births, baptisms, and marriages are regularly recorded, and have been so,—the first two from the year 1814, the last from the year 1746, up to the present date."

HOLYWOOD.—"The earliest register of baptisms, marriages, collections, and disbursements, is of date 30th December 1687. The register appears entire till 8th May 1697. It commences

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again 9th February 1725, and continues, except a few years after 1806, entire to the present time."

HUTTON AND CORRIE.—"The parish register was very imperfectly kept previously to 1799. It contains a list of baptisms from 1745 to 1772; a list of marriages from 1746 to 1771; and a list of testimonials from 1746 to 1769."

JOHNSTONE.—"No parochial registers or sessional records exist in this parish previous to the year 1735. Since that period a book has been kept containing an account of the ordinary collections, &c., and of the half-yearly distributions to the poor, which is balanced and docqueted annually by the session, and to which the heritors of the parish have at all times access. Another book is kept, in which is recorded the general sessional business, and another for the registration of those births which are communicated to the session-clerk. No record of deaths or marriages has ever been kept here."

KEIR.—"The parochial register of baptisms commences in April 1722, and has been kept to the present time with considerable regularity; that of marriages and deaths from 1721 till 1791, and since 1826; session records, collections, and disbursements of poor's money, since 1692."

KIRKCONNEL.—No return.

KIRKMAHOE.—"The earliest date of the parish register, containing baptisms, marriages, discipline, and division of poor's money, is 1725; it has always been kept with considerable care, except during the last incumbency. For a long time the dissenters declined to give their names to be inserted, though they had the offer of registration free of expense. Even now (1834) our registers are not entirely full."

KIRKMICHAEL.—"No parochial registers appear to have been kept prior to the year 1727; and those from 1727 to 1759, are very imperfect. Since that period they have been better attended to, but are confined entirely to births."

KIRKPATRICK-FLEMING.—"The parochial register of marriages commences in 1709; and that of baptisms in 1713. These registers, though not voluminous, appear to have been regularly kept."

KIRKPATRICK-JUXTA.—"The first volume of the parish register begins in 1692, and extends to 1697. The second volume begins in 1736, and extends to 1755, and thence the record extends to 1769 and 1787. The late Mr Scott carried it to 1799,

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from which time it has been continued to this year. It contains a record of births and marriages, but not of deaths,—with a general view of the funds allotted for the poor."

LANGHOLM.—"The earliest register of baptisms commences in 1706; of marriages, in 1719; and of deaths, in 1704. From which period till the present, the register of baptisms and marriages has been kept with tolerable accuracy; but the register of deaths is wholly wanting for one year."

LOCHMABEN.—"The earliest date of baptisms and marriages is 1765. These registers have been most carefully and regularly kept from the above date to the present time. In this parish, the dissenters shew as much anxiety for the registration of their children as the members of the Established Church."

MIDDLEBIE.—"The records of every description have been kept very irregularly and carelessly, and most of them being written on small unbound papers, are now lost. The only register of baptisms which I can find, commences in 1744; but so imperfect is it, that a great proportion of them are omitted. I have now, however, taken this register under my own charge, and carefully attend to the insertion of the births as well as baptisms of every child whose parents belong to the Established Church. I am convinced, indeed, from observing the state of the parochial registers in this and other parishes, that *without a legislative appointment of a person with a suitable salary, all attempt to have them properly managed will prove ineffectual; nor can I help thinking that the ecclesiastical establishment of Scotland is deficient, in so far as there is no provision made for session-clerks, precentors and beadles.*"

MOFFAT.—"The registers have been generally kept with attention, extending back to 1709, as far as relates to the minutes, and to 1723, as far as relates to the lists; and the heritors, in order to preserve these, have lately been at the expense of getting them all new bound up in a durable and respectable manner. But many parents neglect to record the dates of the birth of their children."

MORTON.—No return.—I am informed by the clergyman that—"A register of baptisms and marriages has been kept since 23d January, 1692, but none of deaths, both very regularly, with scarcely any blanks."

MOUSWALD.—"The register of births has been regularly kept

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since about 1771; but that of marriages and deaths cannot be depended upon till of late years."

PENPONT.—"A fire, which happened in the manse during the ministry of Mr Murray, consumed the parochial records; and those which exist commence only at 1728, and have been very irregularly kept. The first entry in the record of births and baptisms is of date 15th November, 1728. With a view to the preservation and classification of the ancient parochial records of Scotland, the presbytery of the bounds lately instituted an inquiry regarding the state of such documents in every parish under their ecclesiastical superintendence; and the following is extracted from the report of the committee relative to those of Penpont.—'The register of births and baptisms is irregularly kept down to 1833. Since that period it has been kept regularly, as far as the children of parents who belong to the Establishment are concerned. Those parents who belong to other religious denominations seldom apply for registration. There is no record of marriages or of deaths.' The extract abundantly shews the defective and utterly inadequate manner in which these records have been and still are kept. Similar defects and irregularities are very general; and *it would not be unworthy of the legislature to attempt a remedy.*"

RUTHWELL.—"In the parish register of births, the first entry was made in the year 1723. This public document does not appear to have been very regularly kept at any time.—No accurate account can be given of deaths and marriages, from the want of parish registers of these events."

SAINT MUNGO.—"The session register consists of four volumes. The date of the session minute book is 1699. The money accounts are regularly kept from 1699 to 1784. No regular accounts were kept from that time till 1803, and from that period up to the present term, a regular register of marriages, births, baptisms, and burials, has been kept. The session minutes (except in as far as may tend to usefulness), are not engrossed in the sederunt book."

SANQUHAR.—"A register of births in the parish has been kept from 1757, but it is very defective, particularly near the period of its commencement. Many are not recorded."

SIBBALDBIE AND APPLEGARTH.—*Vide* Applegarth.

TINWALD AND TRAILFLAT.—"The only register in the parish regularly kept for any length of time is that of births; the earliest entry in which is on April 4, 1762."

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TORTHORWALD.—"The earliest date of the register of births, &c., is 1696, and the register in general seems to be pretty correct."

TRAILFLAT AND TINWALD.—*Vide* Tinwald.

TUNDERGARTH.—"The parochial registers have been very irregularly kept hitherto; but measures have now been taken to have them regularly kept in future."

TYNRON.—"The first entry in the parish register is dated 17th January 1742; but the register was not regularly kept until 1828."

WAMPHRAY.—"There are no parochial registers in the possession of the present incumbent previous to the year 1794. There is indeed one of an earlier date, commencing in 1758, but it relates only to collections and matters of a pecuniary nature. There appears to have been others, but they were either destroyed or carried away during the incumbency of one Donaldson, a person of dissipated habits, who was superseded by an ordained assistant in 1794. Since that time they have been kept *as regularly as circumstances will admit, or can be expected, while regular registrations are not enforced by legal enactments.* It may be added, however, that we have seen five or six small books of sessional records, and we have heard of another, commencing a few years after the Revolution, and containing some registers of births. But not having yet inspected them, we cannot say whether they fill up the whole intermediate space."

WESTERKIRK.—"The earliest date of baptisms and marriages is 1693; and of deaths, 1804. From the above dates to the present time, these registers have been regularly kept."

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XII.—Edinburghshire,

[Or Mid-Lothian, extends from east to west thirty-six miles, from north to south eighteen miles.]

BORTHWICK.—No return.

CANONGATE.—*Vide* Edinburgh.

CARRINGTON.—"The registers of births, marriages, deaths, and minutes of session, are as follows:—1. Register for the kirk discipline of Karrington, November 6, 1653, ends February 28, 1658; then re-commences Carringtoune, November 6, 1659, and ends December 22, 1661. At this date there is the following note in a postscript to the minute:—'In the beginning of the nixt yeare, and the first month thereof, all kirk-sessions, presbyteries, synods, &c., were, by Act of Parliament, discharged till they were authorised by the bishops; whereupon all the tyme that the foresaid Mr James Kpatrick was permitted to continue in the exercise of the ministrie at the said kirk of Careingtoune, which was until November 1662, there were no more sessions keeped.' The register re-commences May 3, 1663, and is kept apparently with great care till June 18, 1671. Then follows an interruption till 2d August 1676, from which time, till November 25, 1683, the record seems complete. 2. The acts and proceedings of the session of Carringtoune, April 13, 1695, till June 5, 1698. 3. The acts and proceedings of the parish of Primrose, from 31st July 1709, to January 3, 1731. Thence to the present time. The registers of baptisms and marriages begin about November 1653, and are continued to the present time, with several interruptions, as in the fore-mentioned records. The register of deaths commences in 1698, and is continued to 1731. In 1744 it is resumed. There is an interruption from 1799 till 1815."

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COCKPEN.—"The register of marriages and baptisms has, with a few exceptions, been regularly kept from the year 1695 to the present time. It has been, for many years past, most carefully attended to."

COLINTON.—The registers are "contained in seven volumes, which are all in good condition. These volumes contain the proceedings of the kirk-session, the distributions made to the poor, and the minutes of the heritors, of which last there are very few; but since 1716, the poor's matters have been separately recorded, and since 1757, the minutes of the heritors' meetings. The registers of marriages, baptisms, and burials, have always been kept in separate volumes. The first minute of session wants the date, but it mentions the return of the minister from Fife, whither he had fled about a year before, in consequence of Cromwell's victory at Dunbar, 3d September 1650; and the next minute is 14th September 1651. These records are minutely kept until July 1733, between which date and 1746, the payments made to the poor only are recorded. From that period till 1783, matters of discipline are again introduced; but thereafter, until 1823, very few entries appear on the record."—"The registers of baptisms and marriages have been regularly kept since 1655, and that of baptisms since 1728.—Many of the Seceders do not register the baptism of their children, and individuals who die in the parish are sometimes buried elsewhere, and consequently are not registered here."

CORSTORPHINE.—"It appears from the presbytery records that a register of discipline was regularly kept in the parish in 1598, but it was lost before 1692, for the records are fully enumerated in the parish register of that year. The first entry in the existing register of discipline is dated 4th January 1646. This record is regularly continued from that date to May 1689, with the exception of the period when the English army was in the parish, from 1st September 1650, to the beginning of 1652, and from 1658 to 1665, the time of the troubles for non-conformity. From May 1689, there are no entries till May 1692, after which date it is regularly kept until 1768, from which period it contains few entries until 1794. The register of baptisms commences on 5th January 1634, and the register of marriages in June 1665. There is also a register of collections and distributions, which commences in January 1646."

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CRAMOND.—"The date of the most ancient parochial registers is 1636. It is alleged that the books of the parish, which existed previously to that period, were carried off by Cromwell. The records of baptisms, marriages, and kirk-session business, appear to have been kept with great regularity since 1652, and, with the exception of the oldest of them, are in excellent preservation."

CRANSTON.—"Now regularly kept,—they are not voluminous. The baptismal register goes back to 1682; that of marriages, to 1784; the session record to 1783. The former session records are lost."

CRICHTON.—"The parochial registers have been kept with very commendable regularity since 1687."

CURRIE.—No return.—The clergyman informs me that "the records of births, deaths, and marriages, commence in the year 1652. From that date to 1700 they are imperfect and dilapidated—many pages entirely wanting, and all in decay. They seem to have been well kept as to the form and regularity of the entries, but very ill kept with reference to the preservation of the records themselves. It may be stated generally, that, like every other parochial register in Scotland, those of Currie are very defective. They have been most regularly kept by the session-clerks, but at present, as in all former times, a very large proportion of the births are not entered, and that solely because they are not reported to the session-clerk."

DALKEITH.—"The first register is a small quarto, very imperfect. It contains baptisms and marriages from 1612 to 1617. There is a small square volume, beginning with the following title: 'Compt of the mortclaith made 8th August 1632–1639.' It contains also various mortifications and dispositions. The next contains a register of baptisms, from 1639 to 1651; marriages, from 1639 to 1652; and minutes, from 1641 to 1653. Some leaves are wanting at the beginning of the minutes. The first minute is dated the 4th July 1641, and the last is dated 19th June 1653. There is a gap in the series from 1653 to 1659. There is a minute-book, and treasurer's accounts, from 1674 to 1681. It is in a most imperfect state, many leaves being wanting both at the beginning, in the course of the book, and at the end. Minute-book from 1659 to 1680, commencing Tuesday, December 28. A compt and reckoning

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book from 1687 to 1690. There is another gap in the series of minutes from 1680 to February 8, 1691. There is a register of things acted, from February 1691 to 14th November 1701. Register from 14th November 1701 to 22d May 1709. Register of acts, &c., from 17th February 1723 to 3d December 1766. In page 64 of the minute-book for 1693, there is a list of session books.—The records from the commencement of the eighteenth century to the present time are complete, and, with some exceptions, well kept. The register of deaths and burials seems for some years to have been altogether neglected. Several of the volumes are in very bad order; the edges are much worn, and many leaves are loose; in short, the whole series would require to be carefully inspected, repaired, and re-bound, and lodged where they would be preserved from damp and rough usage."

DUDDINGSTON.—"The date of the earliest parochial record of births is in the year 1631, which has been exceedingly well kept from 1640 to the present time. That of marriages was begun in 1813."

EDINBURGH.—No return.—The session clerk informs me that—"the record of births and baptisms, and of marriages for the City, is perfectly complete from the year 1595 to the present date. With the exception of the books kept at the different burying-grounds, there is no record of deaths kept in Edinburgh."

Canongate.—No return.—The session clerk mentions that—"the registrations of births commences 2d September 1564, and continues to the present period, with a few exceptions; that of marriages, 22d October, same year also, with a few exceptions; and that of deaths, begins 1612, and continues regularly, except from 1743 to 1781."

St. Cuthbert's—No return.—The session clerk informs me—"that the register of births extends as far back as 1573. From that period down to 1670, there appear to be only two blanks of a short period, and from that year downwards to the present time, the said registers are complete. The registers of marriages appear to extend as far back as 1655, with a blank between 1669 and 1683, and a slight one between 1697 and 1699, from which latter year they are complete to the present time. With regard to the blanks above referred to I cannot affirm positively, as at the periods mentioned, where

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they occur, it seems to have been the practice to register births and marriages in some of the books of discipline, which may account for the blanks not appearing in the regular registers. I cannot inform you as to the register of deaths, this register not being kept by me, but by the recorder of the burying-grounds."

FALA AND SOUTRA.—No return.

GLENCORSE.—"The date of the earliest parish record is April 21, 1643. The registers of collections and disbursements begin in November 1691, and continue regularly in different volumes to the present day. The registers of proclamations, marriages, baptisms, and deaths, begin in 1672, and are continued with some slight interruptions to the present time. The different volumes of which the parish record consists, are, upon the whole in a good state of preservation, and were all lately rebound."

HERIOT.—"Very imperfect, and have been very irregularly kept. There are only three, the fourth being lost. The earliest bears date 1685. They record only baptisms and deaths, and the latter imperfectly."

INVERESK.—"The earliest entry in the parish records is 1607. They have been pretty regularly kept since that period. From inattention, several of the volumes have been much injured, in consequence of getting loose in the binding. They consist of four sets, and contain the following number of volumes: minutes of sederunt, 5 volumes, commencing at 1651; baptisms, 13 volumes, commencing at 1607; proclamations, 5 volumes, commencing at 1690; deaths, 6 volumes, commencing at 1751."

KIRKLISTON.—"The registers are of four classes:—1. The minutes of session; 2. The minutes of heritors' meetings; 3. The lists of baptisms, marriages, and deaths; 4. The accounts relative to the poor's funds. Of the first class of records, the earliest volume commences in 1647, and there are six other volumes, the latest commencing in 1817. Of the second class, there are two volumes, the former commencing in 1692, the latter in 1785. Of the third class, the earliest volume commences in 1675; and there are other six volumes, the latest commencing in 1817, but there is no record of deaths prior to 1816. Of the last class, the earliest volume commences in 1712, prior to which period, the accounts relative to the poor's funds were all engrossed in the minutes of session, and

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there are five other volumes, the last commencing in 1821. All these volumes, with the exception of the first and fourth, of the first class, are in a tolerably good state of preservation, and from the earliest period, the records seem to have been carefully kept."

KIRKNEWTON.—"The registers of more early date are in a state of considerable mutilation, the effects obviously, in no small degree, of neglect, and particularly of exposure to damp. This is the more to be regretted, that they appear to have been full in their entries and accurately kept. The Kirknewton volume (before the union of the parishes) has the earliest date, 1642. It contains the minutes of session, including receipts and disbursements for the poor, and a register of marriages, baptisms, and burials. The session record and the register are begun severally at the opposite ends of the book, and carried on till they meet. The last entry in this volume is in 1655. The next volume commences in 1663, and comes down to 1688. In the third volume the first date is 1691, and the latest 1720. The East Calder records begin at the same date as those of Kirknewton, viz. 1642. From this period, down to the union of the parishes in 1750, they are more or less defective."

LASSWADE.—"The parochial registers are, in general, well kept, and commence soon after the Reformation."

LEITH (NORTH).—No return.—The session-clerk informs me that,—"the earliest record of births is dated 1615 to 1657, in two small books with parchment covers:—From 1657 to 1684 awanting; 1684 to 1726 complete; 1726 to 1728 awanting; 1728 to 1849 complete. The marriages are,—from 1605 to 1626, in a book with parchment cover; 1626 to 1783 awanting; 1783 to 1849 complete. The deaths from 1803 to 1849 complete, as to burials in North Leith Burying Ground only."

LEITH (SOUTH).—No return.

LIBBERTON.—"The registers, so far as preserved, begin in 1639, and have been pretty regularly kept. Those connected with the business of the kirk-session alone amount to twelve volumes."

MID-CALDER.—"The parochial register, containing the dates of baptisms and marriages, with the contributions and disbursements for the poor, and all the other acts of the kirk-session, commences 27th July 1604, but in several places it is imper-

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fect, to 8th November 1691. From that period to the present, the record is more distinct, and in a more perfect state of preservation, and contains, for many years, not only the acts and church discipline exercised in the session, but likewise an account of certificates either granted or received by the session from individuals who came to reside in the parish. These registers, for the first hundred years, are rather in a dilapidated state, and the pages, in several places, have been misplaced by the binder; but, after that period, down to the present date, the whole of the books of church discipline and deaconry, and the register of births and marriages, are in a state of good preservation. It is much to be regretted that there is no separate register of deaths and burials."

NEWBATTLE.—"The minutes of session were begun in 1616; the register of baptisms in 1646; of proclamations of marriage in 1650; of minutes of heritors in 1740; of receipts and disbursements in 1642; of registers of burials in 1740. Some of these registers are voluminous, but irregularly kept, and many blanks occur in all of them."

NEWTON.—The registers began in 1628.—"All then commenced are in one small volume, which is in bad preservation, and contains meagre details of the proceedings of session, a register of baptisms and one of marriages, together with accounts of collections and disbursements. It ends about 1640, and there is a *hiatus* till 1651, when separate volumes for baptisms and marriages respectively are begun and continued,—in the case of the former, without interruption to the present time, and in the latter, with only a few blanks from 20th December 1678 to 29th June 1679; from 18th November 1688 to 18th May 1692; and from 26th November 1695 to 1st June 1697, from which date they are complete. There is only one volume, entitled, 'the defuncts in the parish of Newton since the 11th July 1731.' It ends with 1761, and there is no other till 1823, when a more perfect register of deaths and burials was begun. All these volumes are in good preservation. A volume for the minutes of session was also begun in 1651, and ends with 1671 at the one side, and recommences with 29th June 1679, at the other. It ends with January 1694. The next volume commences with 21st November 1697, from which date the minutes are complete."

PENICUICK.—"The records of the kirk-session have been pre-

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served entire from the year 1654 to the present time."—"The register of deaths may be presumed to be correct, because no interment could take place without registration. The list of marriages may also be considered as pretty accurate, but no reliance can be placed on that of births,—which may be taken to exhibit only one-half of the actual number of births. The dissenters, who amount to one-third of the whole population, rarely, if ever, register the births of their children, and many of the Established Church neglect it, notwithstanding all that can be said to induce them to do so."

RATHO.—"Neither of very old date nor very complete from the period of their commencement. They consist of seven volumes, six of which are in small folio, and one in quarto, which last has the appearance of a mere scroll of the minutes of session. Two of the volumes form a register of baptisms and marriages, respectively, from 1738 and 1741, to the present time. The rest contain the proceedings of the kirk-session in the administration of the discipline of the church. Their earliest entry bears the date of 1692, four years posterior to the Revolution. There is no record from 1721 to 1738, nor from 1760 to 1802."

ROSLIN.—No return.

SAINT CUTHBERT'S.—*Vide* Edinburgh.

SOUTRA AND FALA.—*Vide* Fala.

STOW.—"The minutes of the kirk-session of Stow go so far back as November 1626, and those of them which may now be called ancient, consist of three small folio volumes.—The first volume extends from November 1626 to June 1650; vol. 2, June 1650 to November 1682; vol. 3, June 1690 to the end of 1709. The fourth volume, which we may regard as embracing a modern period, begins with 1710, and ends with 1725. From this period, the unbroken line of sessional transactions continues, though comparatively barren of interest, and meagre in detail. The most ancient register of births and marriages is contained in a volume recovered some years ago, by the Rev. Dr Lee, who presented it to the kirk-session of his native parish. Births in this volume, 6th July 1626 to 30th October 1667; marriages, 9th January 1641 to 1st December 1671, leaving a chasm in the register of marriages from 4th June 1665 to 1st June 1666, a year of much suffering and persecution in the parish and district. With this excep-

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tion, these registers are complete, in so far as insertions have been made. That of baptisms, however, gives but a very imperfect view of the number of births in the parish."

TEMPLE.—"The registers of baptisms and marriages commence from the ordination of Mr David Walker, at the meeting-house at Nicolsone, and then in Temple, 14th November 1688; and the register of discipline commences 22d June 1690. They form altogether four volnmes, besides fragments, but are by no means in a good state of preservation. The records of births and proclamations, however, are now preserved with considerable accuracy."

WEST CALDER.—"These have been so kept, that they do not enable us to present any accurate account of the deaths, births, or marriages."

XIII.—Elgin, or Morayshire,

[Comprising the eastern portions of the ancient province of Moray, extends from north to south forty miles, and from east to west twenty miles.]

ABERNETHY.—No return.

ALVES.—"The register of the kirk-session is preserved from the year 1649, down to the present time. The manuscript has been somewhat injured by damp and smoke. But the greater part can be read. The register of marriages and baptisms is also preserved."

BELLIE.—No return.

BIRNIE.—"The registers do not reach beyond last century."

DALLAS OR DOLLAS.—No return.

DRAINIE.—No return.

DUFFUS.—No return—The session-clerk has favoured me with the following elaborate information:—"The registers consist

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in whole of 11 volumes, beginning with the year 1629, and continued, with little break or chasm, till the present time.—1. The oldest register, begins in 1629, and ends 1690; it consists of minutes of church discipline, collections and distributions of the poor's fund, texts preached on; is pretty full in its details, and in good preservation. It is written in the old hand throughout. 2. A register of baptisms, marriages, contracts, and deaths; begins 1662, and ends 1694; is in good preservation, and engrossed entirely in the old hand. 3. Register of baptisms, contracts, marriages, and deaths; from 1699, till 1715; written partly in the old hand, partly in a transition style; is perfect and in good order. 4. A book of church discipline, commencing 1690, and terminating 1741. Its contents are similar to those of No. 1. It is beautifully written in a modern hand throughout; is entire, and in excellent preservation. 5. A register of baptisms, contracts, and marriages, (but not of deaths,) beginning 1733, and ending 1765. It has been well kept, and is entire, and in good order. 6. A book of church discipline, beginning 1742, and ending 1781; contents in general similar, although perhaps not so particular, as those stated in No. 1. It is, however, entire, and in good condition. 7. A register of births, baptisms, and marriages, (those of deaths omitted,) from the year 1780, till 1820; perfect and in good order. 8. A cash-book, beginning 1782, and ending 1832. Its contents consist chiefly of church collections, and distributions of the poor's fund, interspersed with a few minutes regarding church discipline, and the election of elders, &c. It is in tolerably good condition. 9. A register of births, baptisms, and marriages, beginning 1829, and continued regularly till the present time; but no account of deaths has now been kept here for many years. It is done up in the best style of modern bookbinding, in calf, with open backs; and with tolerable care, may last a century to come, without repair. 10. A cash-book, beginning 1832, and continued regularly downward till the Disruption in 1843. It is devoted exclusively to an account of the church collections, and the donations of heritors and other benevolent persons, and their subsequent distribution among the parochial poor. 11. A small minute-book, opened in 1839: it is confined exclusively to cases of church discipline, election of elders, and other sessional matters, and is still current.—In 1825, the older registers had

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become so loose and dilapidated, that the seven first mentioned in the list, underwent a thorough and substantial repair; being strongly rebound in parchment covers, with brass clasps; so that with ordinary care they may now last for centuries to come."

DUTHIL.—"Previous to 1820, the registers of baptisms and marriages were very irregularly kept. The earliest entry of baptisms (and there is but one), is in 1779, and of marriages in 1796. Since 1820, all the records have been very regularly kept."

DYKE AND MOY.—"The earliest date of the registers is 1640. They consist of eleven volumes of different sizes. Before the date of the registers which are now filling up, there are several blanks. Since 1783, they have been regularly kept."

EDENKILLIE.—"The records consist of six volumes:—1. Contains acts of church discipline, from 3d January 1649 to 3d January 1676, and registers of baptisms and marriages from 1702 to 1733; 2. Church discipline and collections for the poor from 1702 to 1720; 3. Church discipline and collections for the poor from 1720 to 1764; 4. Register of baptisms from 1733 to 1810, and matrimonial contracts from 1741 to 1826, there being an interval in the latter from 1765 to 1783; 5. Church discipline and collections, and distributions to the poor from 1764 to 1841; 6. Register of births and baptisms from 1810, and matrimonial contracts from 1827 to 1841. From the above, several intervals appear to have occurred, in which no insertions were made in the registers of church discipline and matrimonial contracts since these began to be kept in this parish; and the registers of births and baptisms, with only one or two brief periods of exception, seem to have been very irregularly kept, till about thirty years ago."

ELGIN.—"The register of baptisms and marriages, extending to seven volumes, commences in the year 1705, and though a few years are wanting, it may be reckoned on the whole as complete a record as is to be found in most parishes. The register of burials begins in 1770, and is confined to those interred in the cathedral burying-ground. This inaccuracy, however, is more apparent than real, as the number of strangers interred in the cathedral ground are probably very nearly the same as the number of persons who die in the parish, and are

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buried in the neighbouring church-yards. These registers are most accurately kept."

FORRES.—"Registers of births, baptisms, and marriages, are regularly kept. There is a disposition, however, often shown to neglect the registration of births, merely to save the small fee of 1s. charged for registration. Few think of registering deaths or burials, and the register of these is very defective. The earliest register of births, &c., is dated May 1675. That of marriages bears the same date."

KINLOSS.—"The registers were carried away prior to 1699, but since that period, minute-book, marriage and baptism registers have been regularly kept, and there has also been a register of deaths kept since 1st January 1826."

KNOCKANDO.—"In consequence of a fire breaking out in the village of Archiestown on the 17th April 1783, the house of the session-clerk was burned, and three volumes of session records were consumed, commencing in 1712, and ending in 1767. The testamentary book, and the register of baptisms and marriages, commencing in the year 1768, were fortunately preserved. Since 1783, books have been kept containing accounts of the ordinary collections, distributions to the poor, and general session business, as likewise registers of baptisms and marriages. The baptismal register is by no means complete, owing to parents having neglected to have their children's names inserted. Within the last few years, however, the register has been more accurate from the measures adopted to enforce registration. No record of deaths or funerals appears to have been kept until the year 1834, when the minister commenced a private register."

MOY AND DYKE.—*Vide* Dyke.

NEW SPYNIE.—*Vide* Spynie (New).

RAFFORD.—"Those of the parish commence in 1688; but are defective during the periods between 1709 and 1722, and between 1733 and 1738. The register of births commences in 1682, and is wanting from 1730 to 1738. It cannot be said that any disinclination is evinced to register the births, unless it be in a rare instance among the poorer classes, arising from a wish to evade the small fee."

ROTHES.—"The registers are of two kinds, marriage and baptismal; the former commences in the year 1791, the latter in 1717. The baptismal register has been kept regularly throughout; the other has a break from 1815 to 1832."

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ROTHIEMURCHUS.—"The earliest entries for both baptisms and marriages are in the year 1774. The registers have been always kept distinct from those of Duthil,* but have not been regularly kept till within the last dozen years."

SAINT ANDREWS LHANBRYD.—No return.

SPEYMOUTH.—No return.

SPYNIE (NEW).—"The earliest entry in the parochial register of baptisms was made in the year 1708; and since that period the register has been pretty regularly kept."

URQUHART.—No return.

XIV.—Fifeshire.

[This county extends from east to west forty-four miles, and from north to south eighteen miles.]

ABBOTSHALL.—No return.—The clergyman informs me that—"The record of births commences in 1650, the record of marriages in 1650, and the record of deaths in 1750. The records of births and marriages commence in the same year that Abbotshall was disjoined from Kirkcaldy, and formed into a separate parish. There are no blanks in the register which I can discover, and they appear to have been well kept by the various custodiers to whom they have been entrusted. At present they are excellently kept."

ABDIE.—"Baptisms and marriages have been registered, with some interruptions, from the year 1693. This is now more carefully done than formerly, though still there are many omissions."

ABERCROMBIE OR SAINT MONAN'S.—"The earliest entry in our parochial registers is 16th April 1597.—The first volume, commencing as just stated, ends in 1638; the second begins 1641, and ends 1660; the third begins 1664, and goes on to

* Rothiemurchus is a *quoad sacra* parish to Duthil.

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1681. There is then a blank till 2d November 1689, when volume fourth begins with the ordination of Mr Walter Wilson. From that time to the present day, the minutes of session have been kept regularly.—The first trace of a marriage register is in 1684. There are only three entries of births and baptisms before 1707. From that period there is a more regular register of marriages and baptisms, and also of burials. There is an heritor's book besides those strictly sessional, and all of them, during the late and present incumbency of session-clerk, have been kept with commendable accuracy."

ABERDOUR.—"These records consist of minutes of kirk-session, commencing in 1649; baptisms in 1663; distributions to poor, 1658; collections at the kirk, 1659; marriages, 1669; deaths, 1658 to 1669; when a register ceased to be kept, but was renewed by the present session-clerk in 1817."

ANSTRUTHER (EASTER.)—"The records of the kirk-session are preserved from the year 1641, down to the present time. They have been carefully kept, and are very legible. The register of baptisms during the same period is also preserved. Of marriages, the record is less regular and entire."

ANSTRUTHER (WESTER.)—"The earliest entry in the session records, as possessed by the present schoolmaster, is in 1651.—No register of deaths is kept."

AUCHTERDERRAN.—There are "registers of baptisms and marriages only. They commence at the beginning of last century. It is to be hoped *that the General Assembly, and other public bodies, will be successful in bringing the defective state of the Scottish registers before Parliament.*"

AUCHTERMUCHTY.—"The oldest record of this parish is a register containing the minutes of kirk-session, commencing in the year 1650, and also a separate register of births and marriages from the same period. How far the latter contains a complete record of all the births and marriages which took place within the parish at this period, it is impossible to say. No particular register appears to have been kept of the deaths at the time, and the number is only to be ascertained from the notices given of the funds arising from the use of the mortcloth. There is, however, a blank in the records of this parish not easily accounted for, from 1658 and 1667, till the beginning of the eighteenth century, when they appear again to have been kept with considerable regularity. At present the re-

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cords of this parish, and, perhaps, of most parishes in Scotland, are far from being complete. The register of marriages, amount of collections at the church doors, and minutes of the kirk-session, are kept with great accuracy; but the record of births and deaths is most deficient. Of the former, 25, and of the latter, only 8, were recorded for the year 1840, while 50 deaths, and from 70 to 80 births are known to have taken place in the parish within that period. This strange anomaly may be accounted for thus: over the registration of the former, the kirk-session have a complete control; over the latter, as the law now stands, they have little or none, and, consequently, by far the most important records are incomplete. Few or none of the dissenters in the parish register their children's names, and in a parish where, at least, between thirty and forty children must be born of dissenting parents yearly, there are not as many of them recorded in the parochial registers for the last twenty years. With regard to the register of deaths, it may be observed that, for many years, a very faithful record was kept, while the kirk-session's mortcloth was used, but since it has become fashionable to use those of private societies, or, what is now much more common, none at all, no authentic record of the mortality which takes place within the parish, is kept."

AUCHTERTOOL.—"The records extend as far back as 1670, but till within the last fifty or sixty years, they have been very irregularly kept."

BALLINGRY.—"The records commence in 1669, and contain registers of births, marriages, and deaths."

BALMERINO.—"The earliest records of the session, including births and marriages, date from 1652, and have been tolerably well kept."

BEATH.—"The parochial registers, consisting of minutes of session, records of marriages, births and burials, have been pretty regularly kept. The earliest entries are in 1642."

BURNTISLAND.—"The session records commence at March 1602. They consist of eight volumes, and have, for the most part, been regularly kept. Blanks occur from 1670 to 1672; from 1686 to 1693; from 1711 to 1719; and from 1748 to 1769. From 1786 there is a series of fragments on to 1821; after which period the record has been regularly kept. The register of births, baptisms, and marriages, commences at 1672, and

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is continued more or less perfectly to the present time. As in the session records, there are some considerable blanks. At various periods, a record of deaths has been kept, but it is very scanty."

CAMERON.—"The date of the earliest registers of births and marriages is 1695, with a chasm from 1709 to 1717. They have been regularly kept. A most voluminous record of discipline commences in 1694, and is continued to 1739."

CARNBEE.—No return.

CARNOCK.—"The parochial registers, which consist of minutes of session, records of marriages, births, and burials, and accounts of collections and disbursements, commence in 1642, and come down, with a few intervals, to the present time. They are comprised in eleven volumes of various sizes, some of which are much injured, and one of them the duplicate of another that is now scarcely legible. An earlier volume than any of the present seems once to have existed.—The first of the existing volumes wants thirteen leaves at the beginning. It contains the minutes of session from January 30, 1642, to February 16, 1662; as also an account of collections and disbursements, and a few notices of baptisms.—The principal blanks in the registers are from February 1662, to February 1665, and from March 2, 1693, to October 23, 1699."

CERES.—"The records of the kirk-session are in preservation, from the year 1620; and from that date to the present, they have been kept regularly."

COLLESSIE.—No return.

CRAIL.—"These commence on the 15th April 1648, with a minute in the beautiful handwriting of Mr James Sharp, who was then minister of the parish, and afterwards Archbishop of St. Andrews, and are carried on, with little interruption, to the present day. The greatest blanks are from the 4th February 1729, to the 4th January 1732, which seems to have been occasioned by the clerk neglecting to copy from his scroll-book, as the leaves are paged but not filled up; and from 1779 to 1790. They now occupy fourteen volumes folio. They contain the minutes of session, with an account of its discipline; a register of births, baptisms, and marriages, along with the receipts and disbursements for the poor, and a list of deaths and burials.—Besides these registers, there are four volumes of records of burials, which commenced in 1754,

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and are still carrying on. These have been kept by the beadles, and point out the spot where every body has been laid, by stating in yards and feet the distance and direction of the grave, from certain fixed points about the church and churchyard. For some time these records were considered as almost a sufficient register of deaths. But as, in 1826, the inhabitants erected a vault in the churchyard, in which corpses were to be deposited in winter for three months, and in summer about six weeks, and then buried; the interval between death and burial was, in many cases, found too long for identifying a deceased individual; and therefore the plan of keeping a separate register of deaths was renewed."

CREICH.—"The date of the earliest entry is 1668. Marriages and baptisms appear, with a few exceptions, to have been recorded with regularity, from 1668 to the present time, and births have frequently, but not always, been inserted. For many years past, births have been always entered along with the baptisms. There is a register of burials, along with baptisms and marriages, from 1st October 1783, to 1st October 1794, after which time the registering of burials was discontinued, seemingly in consequence of the government tax on births, marriages, and burials, ceasing at that time by Act of Parliament to be uplifted. A register of those who die in the parish has been regularly kept since 1817. The registers of births, marriages, and deaths, have, for the last twenty years, been kept according to a plan recommended by the presbytery to the different parishes within their bounds. They are annually inspected by the committee of presbytery appointed for the examination of the schools, and have uniformly been commended for their distinctness and accuracy."

CULTS.—"These parish records commence in the year 1693, and are continued downwards with little interruption to the present day. Prior to 1748, however, the entries are made in a very confused and slovenly manner,—the notices of births, marriages, and deaths being huddled together with the minutes of the kirk-session, and the accounts of the collections and disbursements for the poor."

CUPAR.—"The records of the kirk-session reach back to the year 1648.—Excepting a chasm from 1661–1695, they are complete. The registers of baptisms, deaths, and marriages, reach back to 1654, and are brought down regularly, and without interruption, to the present time."

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DAIRSIE.—"The records are of baptisms, commencing February 27, 1705; marriages, October 1, 1783; burials, October 1, 1783."

DALGETY.—"There has been no obituary kept in the parish for the last fifty years."

DUNBOG.—"The parochial registers extend no farther back than the year 1666. The first entry is dated 23d September of that year. From that period they have been kept with tolerable accuracy."

DUNFERMLINE.—The records "consist of nineteen folio volumes, the first six of which contain registers of baptisms and marrages jointly, and of the remaining thirteen, there are nine of baptisms and four of marriages, separately. With the exception of a blank in the marriages from 1745 to 1750, they are continuous from 16th July 1561, the date of the first entry, to the present period. Where the baptisms and marriages are recorded together, the latter are on the margin.—There is a register of deaths from 1617 to 1657. A very accurate register of burials has been kept in a folio volume since 1833. The superintendent of the churchyard takes charge of it. The kirk-session records consist of eleven folio volumes. The first regular entry on them is dated the last day of June 1640. The minutes for the first forty-five years are neatly and distinctly written, apparently, too, in the same hand, but abound in contractions. With the exception of a blank between 1689 and 1701, the volumes are continuous to the present period. All these registers and records are well bound, lettered, and dated on the back, and in good preservation."

DUNINO.—"From April 30, 1643, in a regular series to the present time, there are eight volumes of parochial records in tolerable preservation. There is a register of deaths since the year 1752."

DYSART.—"The registers go so far back as 1619. They consist of about twenty volumes, and are in good order except one volume, which, being reckoned of importance, was, at the request of the session, lately transcribed by the session-clerk."

ELIE.—"What can be said of very few other parishes in Scotland, registers have been regularly kept in Elie since 1639, the date of its erection into a parish. There is, however, one small chasm in them, the volume which began with 1682, and ended at 1700, having been lost. They still continue to

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be kept with great regularity." The clergyman, Mr Milligan, adds the following important paragraph:—"On his succeeding to the cure, the present incumbent found occasionally an indisposition to register the births of children, arising probably from the fees paid on the occasion. But he laid it down as a rule not to baptise, till a certificate of registration from the session-clerk was produced; and now this is so well understood that almost no one thinks of speaking to him on the subject, till this preliminary point has been settled. If any are too poor to bear the expense, the session-clerk either gives his labour gratis, or is remunerated by the session. At the same time, as during the last five years, perhaps for many before that, only one child of a dissenter has been born and baptised in the parish, and its name is also inserted in the book, the lists are as nearly complete as can be supposed. The minutes of session also exist for the same period, and with the same exceptions."

FALKLAND.—No return.

FERRY-PORT-ON-CRAIG.—No return.

FLISK.—"The register of baptisms and marriages, combining also the accounts of disbursements, and the minutes of session, commence 6th May 1697; and that of deaths and burials, 1st March 1775. They seem in general to have been kept with care and regularity; the only marked omission being in that of the session minutes from 1798 to 1822."

FORGAN.—"The parochial registers do not extend farther back than 1701."

INVERKEITHING AND ROSYTH.—"The minutes of session are regular and without blanks, from 1676 to the present date. The register of baptisms and marriages also extends from 1676 to the present date, though from 1676 to 1698, in the same books with the session minutes, and intermixed with them as they occurred, and with the exception of a blank from 1711 to 1748, caused by the loss of a book, which, according to an entry in the session minutes about 1755, was taken to London as evidence in a law-suit, about 1750, and never returned. There is a register of burials from 1702 to 1708, and for 1710, and of testimonials given and received from 1701 to 1711."

KEMBACK.—"The earliest registers are those of baptisms and burials, which both commence in the year 1735. That of proclamations begins 1st October 1783. The records appear at

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one period to have been made irregularly; and there is no account of the burials from 1738 to 1750. The only session book extant commences in the year 1732, and continues with some interruption to April 1775."

KENNOWAY.—"The date of the earliest entry in the parochial register, is supposed to be in 1634. The figures after *anno* at the top of the page, have been removed through decay of the paper; but an entry, about half-way down the same page, bearing the date 1635, is perfectly distinct. After this, on a subsequent page, comes July, 1638; and though the book in which these dates are found, is not in a state of very good preservation, yet the details of the transactions of the kirk-session may be gathered from the last mentioned date, with few, if any exceptions, continuously down to December 1675. From this time, however, to 1690, a period of about fifteen years, there is an entire blank; and the same thing occurs between 1755 and 1761. From this last date, up to the present time, the records are entire."

KETTLE.—No return.—But the present clergyman writes to me —"Our records of births and marriages begin at the year 1663. They have been correctly kept. I have discovered no blanks in them. We have no record of deaths for the parish of Kettle. There is, however, a record of burials in our churchyard, but it has not been correctly kept: of course many die in this parish who are buried in the adjoining parish churchyards."

KILCONQUHAR.—"The parochial registers commence in 1631, and have been regularly kept ever since."

KILMANY.—The clergyman, Mr H. D. Cook, having paid a more than ordinary and commendable attention to the state of the records of this parish, his remarks are at length as follows:—"The parochial registers I examined with great care in Nov., 1828, and I then made the following minute with regard to them:—Kilmany, Nov 16, 1828, 'I have examined with considerable care the records of the session of Kilmany, and I have found them wonderfully complete, notwithstanding their present miserable condition. They have been originally bound up as a volume; but at this date they consist of separate sheets and leaves. When they were put into my possession, they were in great disorder, and it required nearly a week's labour to put them into their present condition. A considerable part of them are consumed by damp and bad care. The marking

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of the pages is gone; and I am afraid, that in their present wasted state, they will not keep together for many years. The paper is so much consumed, that they cannot be bound into a volume. All that I can do to preserve them after being arranged, is to enclose them in a portfolio. They commence 1st November, 1696, and they go down to 1729; the month at which they close is worn off. In the records there is a blank from October 31, 1697, to June 1, 1701; also a leaf of distribution of kirk-session, 1728. I have observed in these early records of the kirk-session no other blank. I have put the registers of births together at the end. They consist of three fragments. The first of the register of births begins May 5, 1706, and is very accurate, although a good deal decayed, until August 18, 1710. The second portion of the register of births commences November 18, 1711, (leaving a blank from August 1710,) and continues regular, although much wasted at the bottoms of the pages, until October 12, 1718. Third portion of the registers of births commences November 18, 1721, (leaving a blank from October 1718,) and it goes down to 1727. This is in far worse condition than the other two. It is so much wasted that I could not ascertain the particular month in 1717, when it closes. The records which I have described begin, as before stated, November 1696, and come down to 1729."—This volume of minutes of session has been long in bad condition. So far back as when Mr Adamson was elected minister in 1764, it is stated, that the session-clerk produced "an old illegible book of minutes, about the year 1669–70,* &c., a book in which were contained a register of baptisms, &c., from November 1696 to December 1729, inclusive, and minute of discipline, collections, distributions, of the same dates;" another book, containing a register of baptisms, &c., from January 1730, to the present time, and minutes of collections and distributions from January 1730, to December 1728, inclusive, and discipline by itself, from January 1749, to the present time; another book, containing only minutes of collections and distributions, from January 1749 to the present time." These are all in existence. They were most accurately kept by Mr Adamson. They have been continued to the

* "I never saw the old illegible book of minutes about the year 1699–70. The earliest which was put in my possession was 1st of November 1696."

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present day, except minutes of discipline. Since Mr Adamson's time, until very lately, this part of the parish registers has been completely neglected. No entry has been made with regard to any meetings which have taken place betwixt the heritors and kirk-session."

KILRENNY.—"The oldest parochial register is dated 1586. The registers appear to have been pretty correctly kept; but some of them are so tarnished and chafed as to render dates often uncertain and the reading imperfect. Latterly, and for a considerable period, they have been kept with great accuracy."

KINGHORN.—"The earliest register is of baptisms, commencing in 1577. The session records commence with some regularity in September 1607, yet there are earlier notices of the proceedings of the session. The records of baptisms and marriages, and the proceedings of the kirk-session, are kept with much regularity and fulness, from the close of the seventeenth century to the present time."

KINGLASSIE.—"The most remote records of baptisms and sessional procedure bear the date of A.D. 1627. Those of marriage contracts commence twenty years subsequent to that period. Instead of classification having been always duly observed, there is an occasional commingling of matters belonging to these separate departments.—For many years past, discipline proceedings, births, marriages, and poor's funds have had each their distinct and appropriate register."

KINGSBARNS.—No return.

KIRKCALDY.—"Five classes of registers are preserved, viz.—minutes of session, registers of proclamations and marriages, of births and baptisms, of deaths and burials, and accounts of the collections and disbursements for the poor. The first and the last of these are nearly entire, and in a good state of preservation; the other three are much mutilated. The oldest volume of the session records commences with January 1614, and the same volume contains, besides the minutes of session, a register of baptisms and marriages, commencing with the same date. The minutes of session from 1645 to 1663 are wanting. In consequence of leaves being torn away at the beginning of a volume, the minutes for the year 1632 are lost. With these exceptions, the minutes from 1614 are complete and well kept. There are duplicates for considerable periods, the scroll copy of the minutes having been preserved."

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LARGO.—"The registers consist of fourteen volumes. They commence in 1636, and have been regularly kept."

LESLIE.—No return.

LEUCHARS.—"The earliest register extant of births and the session records commence with the year 1665. In the register of births, there is a hiatus of seven years, extending from 1699–1705. The session minutes consist of three volumes, the first reaching from 1666–1737; the second from 1737 to 1762; the third from 1762 to the present year. No register of deaths previous to 1766."

LOGIE.—No return.

MARKINCH.—No return.—The clergyman informs me,—"that the registrations of baptisms are from January 1635—that previous to the year 1697 there are fifty-five years—to the year 1712 there are ten years—and to the year 1780 there are three years, awanting. There are registrations of contracts of marriage from May 1697 (with eleven years previous to 1712—two before 1779—and thirty-five before 1834, awanting). There are few registrations of deaths, but these are from December 1634."—The session records reach no farther back than July 1626.

MONIMAIL.—"The parish registers commence in the year 1626. They are, in general, pretty well kept, but several portions have been lost."

MOONZIE.—"The parochial registers are not of ancient date. The first entry in the minute-book is on November 6, 1693. Baptisms were first recorded in 1713, and marriages in 1769. Since 1821, births and baptisms, as well as marriages and deaths, have been regularly recorded."

NEWBURGH.—"The records of the kirk-session date from the year 1652. In the earlier period they have been very correctly kept."

NEWBURN.—"The register commences in 1628, and has been kept pretty regularly."

PITTENWEEM.—No return.

ROSYTH AND INVERKEITHING.—*Vide* Inverkeithing.

SAINT ANDREWS.—"The oldest volume of the kirk-session records commences with the year 1559, and comprehends the transactions of that body down to the year 1600.—The volume containing the proceedings from 1600 to 1638 has been lost, but from the latter of these dates, down to the present time, the

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minutes have been preserved. The existing register of births and baptisms begins with the year 1626, and has been continued to the present time, with the exception of the entries from 1738 to 1742, which have been lost. The register of contracts, proclamations, and marriages, begins with the year 1770, and that of deaths with 1740, and both have been continued to the present day. The keeper of these records, however, states, that they are defective to a very considerable extent, as, notwithstanding all the means that are employed by him to ensure the registration of the births, many of the parents neglect this part of their duty: and when the dead are buried in other cemeteries, there is no return of the interment made to him, and no entry in his books." The writer very properly adds,—"It is much to be regretted that the keepers of the ecclesiastical records in Scotland have been so negligent, that in many of the parishes they are not to be found of an older date than a century, or a century and a half. It is probable that many of the volumes of these records, which are supposed to be lost or destroyed, might still be recovered, were the ministers of the parishes to institute a diligent inquiry respecting them. A number of years ago, the writer of this article discovered, in the course of an investigation, the minutes of the diocesan synod of St Andrews, commencing with the year 1611, and containing the proceedings of that court for above twenty years, which he was enabled to place in the custody of the clerk of the synod of Fife. And within these few years, he accidentally discovered the volume containing the proceedings of the presbytery of St Andrews, from October 1586 to December 1605. This is a highly interesting record, as it furnishes many details relative to the proceedings of Andrew Melville and his associates, that are not to be found in any printed work. This volume does not appear to have been in the hands of the presbytery clerks for more than a century. During the first six years of the period which it embraces, the presbytery of St Andrews comprehended also the parishes which now form the presbytery of Cupar, the first erection of the latter presbytery not taking place until October 1592. This volume has not yet been put into the hands of the presbytery clerk, but it is hoped that this will ere long be effected; and, if this expectation should not be realized, a transcript of it, which has been made, will be lodged with the other records."

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SAINT LEONARD'S.—"The earliest entry in the parochial registers of the parish, is of date June 28, 1696. The register of births and marriages is extant from that period; but with regard to the former, the same remark is applicable as to the register of births for the parish of St Andrews, namely, that it is highly defective, many of the parents neglecting to apply to the session-clerk to have the names of their children enrolled."

SAINT MONAN'S OR ABERCROMBIE.—*Vide* Abercrombie.

SALINE.—"The records of the kirk-session commence in 1704, and have been regularly kept ever since. The register of births and baptisms begins in 1696, and seems to have been pretty regularly kept up to this time. There are no registrations of marriages till 1765, since which time they have been regularly kept."

SCOONIE.—"The oldest volume of records, which has been well kept, contains the general acts of the kirk-session from 1626 to 1642, and the particular acts from 1640 to 1655. The records commence again in 1667, and are brought down to the present time, with the exception of two blanks, one between the years 1746 and 1764, and the other between 1781 and 1798. This last blank has been accounted for by the sudden death of the session-clerk, who had neglected to transcribe the minutes of session from the note-book into the regular record, and that record is now lost."

STRATHMIGLO.—No return.

TORRYBURN.—No return.

WEMYSS.—"The register of the records of session commences 1645, and is regularly kept from 9th March 1692, down to the present time. From 26th August 1689 to 9th March 1692, there is a deficiency.—The oldest register of baptisms begins in 1660, and that of contracts and marriages in 1662. With the exception already noticed, they are all regularly and accurately kept from their commencement. The number of the whole is fourteen volumes."

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XV.—Forfarshire,

[Or Angus, comprising the districts of Glenisla, Glenprosen, and Glenesk, and part of the great valley of Strathmore, extends from north to south thirty-eight miles, and from east to west thirty-six miles.]

ABERLEMNO.—"The earliest of the existing parochial registers bears the date of 1706, and extends to 1716. There is then a break in the register.—From 1722 to the present time, there is a continuous record of the transactions of the session, also of births and marriages, with an imperfect one of deaths."

AIRLIE.—"The parochial records consist of registers of births and marriages, minutes of session, and accounts of the poor's funds. They have been, in general, regularly kept. The earliest entry in the session-books is dated May 28, 1682."

ARBIRLOT.—"The oldest register begins about the year 1640."

ARBROATH.—"The records consist of the kirk-session minutes, whose earliest date is 1669; and of the records of births and baptisms, and of marriage contracts and marriages, which commence in 1659. They are, in general, in a good state of preservation. The entries of marriages are defective in 1659, 1661, 1696, 1697, 1698, and 1700; and of births and baptisms in 1660, 1661, 1696, 1697, 1698, 1699, and 1700; and the volume or volumes containing both, from 1735 to 1748 inclusive, have been lost. There is no record of the proceedings of the kirk-session from 1684 to 1732, nor from 1735 to 1748."

AUCHTERHOUSE.—"The parish registers are, 1st, a very old one, recording texts and acts of church discipline, commencing with May 1645, and closing with May 1692, much mutilated and almost illegible; 2d, a cash-book, in good preservation, extending from December 1722 to December 1740; 3d, a cash-book and records from December 1740 to August 1804; 4th, baptismal registers from 1707 to the present time; 5th, a cash-book, with some minutes of session from 1804 to the

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present time; 6th, a sessional record from 1818 to the present time."

BARRIE.—"The parochial registers consist of the minutes of the kirk-session, and the register of births and marriages. The kirk-session record commences at 22d February 1704; but, from 1779 to 1824, no minutes appear to have been kept. Since 1824, they have been regularly and accurately kept. The register of births and marriages commences in 1704, and, with the exception of nine years, viz., from 1807 to 1816, it has been regularly kept."

BENVIE AND LIFF.—*Vide* Liff.

BRECHIN.—"The acts or minutes of session commence in the year 1615, and are continued from thence until 1700, at which period there is a break for two or three years. After this they are continued to May 1724, when another blank occurs, till 1786; after which they are complete to the present date. In the register of baptisms, the earliest entry is in 1612, from which time the register is continued without any interruption to 1725, when it becomes imperfect, and consists of occasional entries made on detached leaves, or folded sheets, till the year 1753, from which time it is continued to the present. The register of marriages, or rather of proclamations, commences in 1700, and continues for a few years; but downwards to 1784 it is very defective. There are some proclamations recorded betwixt 1749 and 1781, but for many years prior to 1749 there is no record existing."

CARESTON.—"The register of births in this parish commences in the year 1714, and those of marriages and deaths in 1773. There is likewise a sessional register, commencing in 1733, in which all the transactions of the kirk-session are minutely recorded, in a promiscuous manner, down to 1800, when the money matters connected with the poor's fund were recorded elsewhere, and in a more business-like manner."

CARMYLIE.—"There is a fragment of a parochial register of baptisms, collections, &c., commencing 7th May 1666, and ending January 1681. There is another register of baptisms, &c., commencing 1684, very regularly kept, and ending 1709. The next register commences in 1720,* and, with the excep-

* "It is stated at the commencement of this register that the session-book of the period from 1709 to 1715, had been carried off in 1715, and was then either lost, or concealed by some of the Episcopal persuasion."

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tion of a blank in the register of marriages, from 1745 to 1779, has been pretty regularly kept to the present time."

CLOVA AND CORTACHY.—*Vide* Cortachy.

CORTACHY AND CLOVA.—"There are four volumes of old parochial records. The date of their earliest entry is November 1659, and they are brought down to 1732, with the exception of the years from 1687 to 1697. They appear to have been regularly kept. They contain registers of contracts of marriage, of births and baptisms, and give a particular account of the proceedings of the kirk-session.—There are other four volumes of parochial registers, beginning in 1747, and continued down to the present time, in reference to sessional proceedings and contracts of marriage. They appear to have been pretty regularly kept. The only irregularity seems to have arisen from the negligence of parents, in registering the births and baptisms of their children. This is a duty, to the performance of which many parents are still inattentive."

CRAIG.—" The kirk-session records commence in the year 1653, and, though not voluminous, are regularly kept from that period, with the exception of a blank between 1694 and 1714. The register of baptisms commences in 1657, and that of marriages in 1661, but in the former there is a blank from 1700 to 1714; in the latter, from 1662 to 1714; in both from 1717 to 1723."

DUN.—" The date of the earliest entry on the parochial register of births and baptisms is the 10th July 1642; of marriages, the 14th September 1646. There are three volumes of these registers, but they do not appear to have been regularly kept, and the first is scarcely legible. There is also a register of burials in the parish, began in the year 1777, and continued to the year 1793; but from that time it has been very irregularly kept. The records of the kirk-session begin on the 19th July, 1702, and consist of four volumes."

DUNDEE.—" The register of births and baptisms, and that of marriages, both began in 1645, and are continued, without interruption, till the present time. The former occupies six volumes, the latter four volumes. The records of the kirk-session begin in 1682, and come down also to the present time. These registers are regularly and distinctly kept."

DUNNICHEN.—No return.

EASSIE AND NEVAY.—No return.

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EDZELL.—No return.

FARNELL.—"The records extend back to the year 1699, are full and distinct, and apparently kept with great regularity. But those of Kinnaird, while it existed as a separate parish, have been altogether lost; and no trace or history of them can be found."

FEARN.—No return.

FINHAVEN OR OATHLAW.—*Vide* Oathlaw.

FORFAR.—"The registers consist, 1st, of the register of baptisms. It begins in 1659, and continues till 1715. 2d, Minutes of session, beginning 1691, and continuing to 1715. In 1717, registers of both descriptions are begun, and continued to the present time."

FOWLIS AND LUNDIE.—*Vide* Lundie.

GLAMMISS.—"The earliest register bears date the year 1634."

GLENISLA.—"The oldest volume of the parish registers commences in the beginning of the year 1704, and ends in 1723. The next volume commences 1741, and ends 1806. The last commences in November 1806, and contains the records from that period until the present year. These registers are pretty well kept, but none of them appear to be complete."

GUTHRIE.—"These extend back to the beginning of the seventeenth century; but there are many gaps in the records, and nothing like a continued narrative of parochial matters from the above date to the present."

INVERARITY.—"The registers, consisting of four volumes, regularly kept, commence in the year 1710."

INVERKEILOR.—"The registers of this parish commence in the year 1739, since which period they have been regularly kept."

KETTINS.—"There are registers of baptisms from 1650; of marriages, from 1685, wanting from 1726 to 1772; of deaths, from 1685, wanting from 1716 to 1750. Kirk-session records commence in 1618."

KINGOLDRUM.—"There are six volumes belonging to the kirk-session. They have been accurately kept, save during the incumbency of one clerk of session. Parents are very negligent in registering the births of their children."

KINNELL.—"The parochial registers commence about 1657; but there are several chasms; and indeed the records frequently contain nothing but the collections and disbursements for the poor."

KINNETTLES.—"The kirk-session is in possession of six volumes

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of old parochial registers, comprising entries of the proclamation of the banns of marriages, baptisms, deaths, discipline, collections, and disbursements. These entries, however, are exceedingly irregular, intermixed, and imperfect; and marriages, births, and burials, are entirely omitted; but in 1806 the mode of entry was altered, and a new arrangement adopted. A new set of registers, six in number, neatly bound and titled, were introduced in 1820. Vol. i. contains an entry of the proclamation of the banns of marriage, and of the marriage itself; vol. ii., births and baptisms; vol. iii., deaths and burials; vol. iv., income; vol. v., expenditure; vol. vi., discipline. All the volumes, twelve in number, including old and new, are carefully and regularly kept."

KIRKDEN.—"A register of parochial matters, from the year 1650 to 1690, after having been lost for a long while, was accidentally discovered by the predecessor of the present incumbent, one of the leaves having been casually sent from a shop in the neighbourhood. From the latter date to 1735, no records are known to exist; but they have since been regularly preserved to the present time.—There is no register of deaths kept."

KIRRIEMUIR.—"The registers are of a late date. It appears that they were taken possession of in 1713, by the Rev. James Rait, and were never afterwards recovered. The registers of marriages, births, and deaths, which have been kept since 1713, are as correct as most others, but far from being in a satisfactory state."

LETHNOT AND NAVAR.—"Date of earliest entry 1728."

LIFF AND BENVIE.—"1. A register of births, commencing 1633, very much obliterated. 2. Register of baptisms, 1658, tolerably legible. 3. Register of births, 1696, much faded. 4. Register of marriages, 1660, almost illegible. 5. Record of kirk-session, 1704, not entire. 6. Register of baptisms and marriages, 1774, not entire. 7. Register of discipline, 1726, and book of collections and disbursements, 1746, not entire. 8. Register of births, 1774, and also collections and disbursements, quite distinct. 9. Register of discipline, 1786, well kept. 10. Register of births, at present going on, beginning 1834. 11. Register of marriages, at present being filled up, 1834."

LINTRATHEN.—"The session records commence in 1664. They do not appear at all times to have been kept with much accuracy."

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LOCHLEE.—"The parish register of births extends as far back as the year 1730. This parish was disjoined from Lethnot, and erected into a separate charge in 1723. Parochial registers of marriages, baptisms, and burials, are now regularly kept. The age and diseases (if known) of all persons dying, are carefully recorded."

LOGIE PERT.—"There are no registers in existence of a date previous to the year 1716—those prior to that date having probably perished amid the disturbances of 1715, since which time they have been regularly kept, and are now in good order."

LUNAN.—"The registers commence in 1654, and, with some exceptions, have been kept with tolerable accuracy since that period."

LUNDIE AND FOWLIS.—"Respecting the parochial registers of Lundie and Fowlis, it may suffice to state, that they began at a very early period, 1667, and are kept together till 1701; but during this period many blanks occur, and for some of them apologies are inserted at the time. Since 1701, each district of the parish has had its own register, and they are pretty correct. About eight years ago a register of deaths was added to those previously in use; but a *perfectly accurate set of registers will never be had till there be a compulsory enactment*, as there are still many parents who are backward in intimating the births of their children."

MAINS AND STRATHMARTINE.—"The register of Strathmartine does not extend farther back than the year 1783. The school-house having accidentally caught fire at that time, the parish records were consumed. The parish register of Mains commences with the year 1633, and for a considerable time all the miscellaneous transactions of cash, as well as baptisms and marriages, and the numerous cases of discipline, which were carefully taken up and minutely examined at that period, are recorded promiscuously, as the events occurred, in one volume."

MARYTOUN.—"The parochial register begins in 1738, and has been regularly kept since that time; and part of a previous register remains."

MENMUIR.—"The oldest register commences on the 15th of September 1622. The weekly transactions of the kirk-session are regularly detailed in it.—Many instances occur of baptisms

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being recorded in the old register of the transactions of the kirk-session; but it was not until 1711, that baptisms were regularly recorded. Part of the baptismal register (from 1733 to 1758) is wanting: it may have either been lost or destroyed. With this exception, the record is complete, and the baptisms seem to have been duly registered until about 1827. Since that time, the number of baptisms registered has continued to decrease, so that now it is rarely that either the birth or baptism of a child is recorded."

MONIFIETH.—"The parochial registers have, with some exceptions, been regularly kept for a period of two hundred and eighty-two years,—in short, they commence at the date of the Reformation. They consist of twelve large volumes—one containing the sessional records of about twenty years near the beginning of last century, having been lost, though referred to in another volume as extant in 1769. It is to be regretted that the oldest volume is considerably damaged in some places, and several leaves are wanting. The earliest separate register of births and marriages begins in July 1649. Before this period, baptisms and marriages are regularly engrossed in the weekly record of sessional proceedings."

MONIKIE.—No return.—The clergyman writes as follows:—"Our sessional records commence in the year 1613. Registers of baptisms and proclamations seem to have been regularly and carefully kept from 1613 down to the present time, with the exception of about thirty years in the middle of last century, when the registering of proclamations appears to have been neglected, or more probably, the entries had been made in some book which had since been lost. From 1613 down to about 1720, minutes of session, baptisms, proclamations, accounts of monies received and expended, have all been entered in one volume, without assigning separate places to each. From 1720 to about 1838, different places were assigned in the second volume to each of the above records. Since about 1838, when the present session-clerk was appointed, separate volumes have been kept for minutes of session, register of births and baptisms, register of proclamations and marriages, and also for registering deaths and burials. No register of deaths and burials was ever kept in the parish until the present volume was begun."

MONTROSE.—"The proceedings of the kirk-session are recorded

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in seven volumes,—1st, from 1633 to 1651; 2d, from 1686 to 1691; 3d, from 1696 to 1724; 4th, from 1724 to 1734; 5th, from 1734 to 1787; 6th, from 1787 to 1815; 7th, from 1815, &c."

MURROES.—"The register of births and baptisms commences in 1746, and that of marriages so late as 1808. The records of the kirk-session extend back to the 30th March 1698.—They appear to be kept with tolerable distinctness and regularity."

NAVAR AND LETHNOT.—*Vide* Lethnot.

NEVAY AND EASSIE.—*Vide* Eassie.

NEWTYLE.—"The oldest record is of date 27th March 1648, closing in 1711; next volume commences 28th April 1717, and ends 29th October 1721. These records have not been preserved as they should have been. The oldest volume is in a very mutilated state. The registers of marriages, births, and deaths, seem to have been irregularly kept; the other records appear to have been made out in a regular and orderly manner."

OATHLAW OR FINHAVEN.—"The parochial registers are rather meagre, being but indifferently kept, and in an indifferent state of preservation.—They commence only on 12th August, 1716."

PANBRIDE.—"The records commence in the year 1693, and are regularly kept."

RESCOBIE.—"The date of the earliest entry in the parochial register is 23d December 1677. The register of discipline, and of receipt and expenditure of poor's funds, previous to the ordination of the present incumbent, consists of three volumes. There are several chasms or blanks between the dates in some parts. The third volume is not filled up beyond December 1785. Since the admission of the present minister, two new volumes have been commenced and continued,—one for minutes of discipline, and another for receipt and expenditure of the poor's funds. There are, besides, a register of baptisms or births, and another for proclamation of banns."

RUTHVEN.—"The session records have been very ill kept, and go no farther back than 1744."

SAINT VIGEANS.—"The oldest register in this parish commences in 1665.—The baptisms and marriages are recorded at the end of the volume. This volume is succeeded by an interval of thirty years without any record. Subsequent to 1727, a

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record was regularly kept of all parochial matters, excepting funerals."

STRATHMARTINE AND MAINS.—*Vide* Mains.

STRICKATHROW.—"The records of the kirk-session commence in the year 1709, and appear to have been kept with tolerable regularity, with the exception of one *hiatus*, which occurs between 1713 and 1716. This was occasioned by the disorders consequent upon the rebellion, at which period, as appears from the records, the manse was rifled, and the minister expelled. The register of baptisms commences in 1709, and of marriages in 1764. The entries appear not to be very regular."

TANNADICE.—"In the registers, no funerals, and but few marriages are recorded; and the register of baptisms, which commences in the year 1693, has not always been very regularly kept."

TEALING.—No return.

XVI.—Haddingtonshire,

[Or East-Lothian, extends from east to west twenty-six miles, from north to south seventeen miles.]

ABERLADY.—"The records of this parish go back two hundred years, but, as happens very commonly throughout Scotland, they do not appear to have been at any time very exactly kept; nor would it be safe to build on them any conclusions in statistic science."

ATHELSTANEFORD.—"Kept correctly since the beginning of last century, and are generally written in a fair hand. The register before 1688 is imperfect. The record of the presbytery of Haddington commences at the first establishment of presbytery after the period of the Reformation, is entire, and appears to have been correctly kept."

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BARA AND GARVALD.—*Vide* Garvald.

BOLTON.—"These consist of several volumes, the earliest of which commences in 1641. They comprehend the records of the kirk-session and registers of baptisms, marriages, and deaths. The register of deaths has not been very regularly kept, and the first volume of the records is a good deal tarnished."

DIRLETON.—"The date of the earliest entry in these is 1656. They consist of three volumes, in very good order,—and have been regularly kept, with the exception of a blank of above thirty years, from 1681 to 1713."

DUNBAR.—"The earliest date is 1658. They have been regularly kept, and are voluminous. The burgh register of sasines begins in 1620, the register of dispositions in 1737, and the council books in 1656."

GARVALD AND BARA.—"Regularly kept. The earliest date of the births and registers is 1694. The session records commence in 1721."

GLADSMUIR.—"The records go back to the erection of the parish. The first minute is dated at Gladsmuir meeting-house, 26th April, 1692. The records are very defective. After the first volume, which ends in 1707, there are minutes for thirty years following. There is also a blank from 1804 till 1833, when the present incumbent came to the parish. In the register of baptisms, there is a gap from 1734 to 1760. The list of marriages is also wanting from 1736 to 1766. But besides these defects, the registers of baptisms and marriages do not appear to have been accurately kept."

HADDINGTON.—No return.

HUMBIE.—"Formerly, very ill kept,—some of them having been entirely lost or destroyed. They do not reach farther back than 100 years."

INNERWICK.—"These commence with 1608, and consist of several volumes. They seem to have been generally kept with care and precision."

MORHAM.—"The earliest date in these records is February 22, 1712. Mention is subsequently made of "old session minutes," which must have been of a date prior to 1712; but these are irrecoverably lost. From that date, they appear to have been accurately kept, and contain in the earlier portion, a most particular notice of parish occurrences and transactions,—births and marriages, intermixed with accounts of the

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sessional income and expenditure, who preached on the Sabbath, or if there was no sermon, whether the minister preached or lectured, &c. &c."

NORTH BERWICK.—"The parochial records were, at one time, voluminous and in excellent preservation; but for many years they were kept with extreme carelessness and irregularity. It is only very recently that they have been kept with resumed accuracy and propriety. There is an inventory made early in 1692, on the induction of Mr Matthew Reid as minister, which represents the records as commencing in 1604, but the two earliest volumes, containing proceedings from 1604 to 1638, with subsequent records, have unaccountably disappeared, and the earliest register is dated 19th October 1651. From this date the register of baptisms and of proclamations of marriages seems in pretty good order; while from 1758 onward to a recent date, there appear no minutes of session whatever. There are now regular and authentic records carefully kept of the proceedings of session, and registers of births and baptisms, of proclamation of marriages, and of burials. The dissenters seldom register the birth of their children in the parish session records,—occasionally they do." The clergyman, Mr R. B. Graham, observes—"A serious neglect in parochial registration has prevailed here, as generally elsewhere, we fear, in the proclamation of marriages alone being recorded, and not the solemnization. It has happened repeatedly during the incumbency of the present minister in this parish, that proclamation was duly made and recorded, but the proposed marriage never took place. Parties after marriage should present the certificate of its celebration to the clerk of session, and have the fact of marriage duly registered. The other parochial registers, as now conducted, however, are more correctly the registers of baptisms than of births, and of burials than of deaths."

OLDHAMSTOCKS.—No return.

ORMISTON.—"Very imperfect. Some of them, according to tradition, being in the possession of one of the elders, who was tenant of East Mains, were consumed when the house of East Mains was burnt. The earliest date of those that remain is April 30, 1637. There is a blank from 1689 to 1730, supposed to have been occasioned by the loss of those that were burnt. From 1730 to the present day, they are complete and regularly kept."

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PENCAITLAND.—"The earliest date of baptisms and marriages is 1598, and of deaths, 1616. From the above dates to the present time, these registers appear to have been kept, respectively, with great correctness, with the exception of a period of fifty years in the register of marriages, which is wanting. The minute book of the kirk-session, from 1633, and the cash-book of transactions in managing the poor's funds, from 1729 till this time, bears marks of having been kept with much attention. A register of certificates granted to persons in communion with the church when leaving this parish, and also a book containing inventories of the effects of paupers, taken at the time that they were put upon the roll, have been kept since 1817."

PRESTONKIRK.—"The parochial registers began in 1663, and are complete,—that is, none of the volumes are wanting; but the number of names registered varies at different periods. Of late years almost every birth in the parish has been regularly entered."

PRESTONPANS.—"During the last century, the records of session have been kept with considerable care. Between the year 1600 and 1690, there are several important blanks. It is seriously to be feared that the volumes wanting are irrecoverably lost. The earliest entry is in the register of births and marriages. Its date is 1596; 1601 is the earliest date in the record of discipline."

SALTON.—"The records of kirk-session consist of several volumes, commencing with the 27th April 1635, and continuing to the present day, with the exception of a *hiatus* extending from 1642 to June 1663, and another from 1748 to November 1759. During the latter period, the deficiency is chiefly in the minutes of kirk-session proceedings; the register of baptism, marriages, and burials being, with a few exceptions, regularly kept."

SPOTT.—"The earliest date is,—of births, 1748, of marriages, 1789. There is no register of deaths. They appear to have been regularly kept."

STENTON.—"These begin in 1669, and have been pretty regularly kept."

TRANENT.—"Of late years these registers have been very regularly kept, and exist from 1615: but the first fifty years are very imperfect; and from 1688 to 1720, the registers are missing, and appear to have been lent and not returned."

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TYNNINGHAME AND WHITEKIRK.—*Vide* Whitekirk.

WHITEKIRK AND TYNNINGHAME.—"The schoolmaster's house at Whitekirk was burnt in the year 1760, and the session registers previous to that date destroyed. The records of the old parish of Tynninghame extend as far back as 1615, and besides their more appropriate contents, contain frequent allusions to passing events.—The records have not been uniformly kept with very great accuracy."

WHITTINGHAME.—"The date of the earliest entry in the parish register is 1626. There have been some parts of it lost; but it has been pretty regularly kept for the last ninety years."

YESTER.—"These consist of nine volumes, and have been kept with considerable regularity. The date of the earliest entry is 18th March 1613."

XVII.—Inverness-shire.

[This large county extends eighty-five miles from east to west, and fifty-five miles from north to south. It includes the western portion of the ancient province of Moray,—the districts of Badenoch, Lochaber, Moydart, Arisaig, Glenelg, Strathglass, and several of the Western Islands, of which Skye is the principal.]

ABERTARFF AND BOLESKINE.—*Vide* Boleskine.

ALVIE.—"The oldest register of this parish commences in the year 1713, and has been very irregularly kept."

ARDERSIER.—"The earliest entry is in June 1719; they are regularly kept."

BARRAY.—"There is no register kept in this parish, nor can we learn that any was ever kept. This may be accounted for by the parishioners having been, till of late, almost all Roman Catholics, over whom the minister could exercise no control."

BOLESKINE AND ABERTARFF.—"In regard to the parochial registers, it may be observed, that in Abertarff, a separate, partial,

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and incomplete register of baptisms has been kept since January 1737, and of marriages from November 1739, under the management of successive resident missionary ministers at Fort-Augustus. The present incumbent, (Rev. Wm. Fraser,) had at first followed the same plan, and for several years the registers were correctly kept; but subsequently, on the appointment of another missionary, to whose charge they were given, they were totally neglected for a period of ten years. It is said that, during the long incumbency of the Rev. Thomas Fraser, a register of the births and marriages had been kept, but that the person to whom it was entrusted lost it in the act of passing a rapid stream. There is no register of the Boleskine district previous to the year 1798. There are now two distinct ones, kept for both Abertarff and Boleskine, which are regularly transmitted about the first of January, every year, to the incumbent, and their entries transcribed under his immediate superintendence, according to their respective dates, into one volume."

BRACADALE.—"The parochial register is but of a recent date, and is as regularly kept as the present state of the law will admit; for, without *a legislative enactment rendering it imperative on parents to register births and deaths, no regularity can ever be expected in the matter.*"

CROMDALE.—"There are three volumes of parish registers, the oldest commencing in 1726; but all have been imperfectly kept, till about 1780."

CROY AND DALCROSS.—"From 1640 to 1789, the parish records were kept with singular care."—But they seem to contain nothing beyond the circumstances which, in the minister's words, compose "a black catalogue."

DALAROSSIE AND MOY.—*Vide* Moy.

DALCROSS AND CROY.—*Vide* Croy.

DAVIOT AND DUNLICHITY.—"The earliest date in the parochial register (one small volume) is 1774, and until the year 1820 the record was kept very irregularly. The former registers were destroyed, in consequence of the school-house, in which they were kept, having been burnt by accident."

DORES.—"Baptism and marriage registers were begun about the year 1744, but have not been accurately kept."

DUIRNISH.—"The registers have been very much neglected; there being none extending farther than thirty years back;

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and session-records, it may be mentioned, were not kept with any degree of fulness before the commencement of the year 1840."

DUNLICHITY AND DAVIOT.—*Vide* Daviot.

GLENELG.—No return.

GLENMORISTON AND URQUHART.—*Vide* Urquhart.

HARRIS.—"It is only within the last few years that a parochial register of marriages and births has been regularly kept."

INVERNESS.—"The records of the proceedings of the kirk-session extend back to August 1602, between which year and 1655 they were irregularly kept; and afterwards, down to 1673, no minutes have been preserved. Since then, they are pretty regular, and registers of marriages and baptisms are kept separately, and latterly with great care and accuracy."

KILMALIE.—"The parish register commences in 1772, but has been very irregularly kept,—partly owing to the scattered state of the parish, and partly owing to the number of Episcopalians and Roman Catholics in the parish, who do not record the names of their children in the parish register."

KILMONIVAIG.—"There is a register of births and marriages, which commences in 1780. It was irregularly kept till the year 1820. The Roman Catholic population seldom use this record for baptisms; but most of their marriages are entered in it. There is also a minute book kept by the kirk-session."

KILMORACK.—"The registers of this parish extend as far back as the sixteenth century; but, from the irregular manner in which they have been kept till within the last thirty or forty years, no information of importance can be derived from them."

KILMUIR.—No return.—The clergyman writes that:—"Previous to 1823, no register was kept in this parish, but since that year the records of baptisms and marriages have been regularly kept. There is no record of deaths in the parish, and likewise, no record of births, except such as have been baptised. Kilmuir has not the advantage of a parochial register of an earlier date than 1822. If there were any previous to that date, they were either lost or destroyed."

KILTARLITY.—"The only public records of any kind kept in the parish, are those of births and marriages. The former begins in 1714, and the latter in 1812; but though the former was kept for the whole of the period since 1714, it is to be regret-

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ted that the entries were not by any means regularly made, and this circumstance is probably as much owing to a strong prejudice which obtained against it in the minds of the people, as from any remissness or neglect on the part of the clerk."

KINGUSSIE.—"The registers up to the year 1724, were unfortunately burnt, so that the earliest entry of those existing is dated at that period. The earlier parts of the records now extant were regularly kept and are very voluminous. The later books have been also regularly preserved, but are neither large nor numerous, and contain few minutes of session of any great interest."

KIRKHILL.—"The registers are of two kinds; one for marriages, the other for births. The former was commenced in January 1817, the latter in July 1755."

LAGGAN.—"The first entry of baptism in our register is dated 1775, and the first of marriage, five years later. The register has not been always very regularly kept, and the burials have not been recorded."

MOY AND DALAROSSIE.—"The old parochial registers were destroyed by fire. There is now, however, one of births kept."

NORTH UIST.—*Vide* Uist (North).

PETTIE.—"From 1633 till 1683, we have a register of births, but not of marriages. The session records begin in 1644, but the first few leaves of the volume were destroyed, from its not having been bound till recently.—From the year 1739 till 1749, there are no session records, nor baptismal registers. In 1765, there is a minute of session, complaining that previous session clerks had taken away the records for not being paid their fees, 'and no wonder then at the blanks to be found here.' But from 1749, till the present day, there are regular baptismal and marriage registers."

PORTREE.—"A parish register of births and marriages was commenced in the year 1800, but discontinued six years thereafter. It was resumed five years from that date. From a variety of causes which could not be prevented, it has hitherto been irregularly kept."

SLEAT.—"The only register belonging to the parish is that of births and marriages, commencing in 1813, and regularly kept since that period."

SMALL ISLES.—"Parochial registers have never been regularly kept in this parish."

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SNIZORT.—"No return.

SOUTH UIST.—*Vide* Uist (South).

STRATH.—"The earliest entry in the parochial register is dated 1821; from that period it has been regularly kept."

UIST (NORTH).—"No registers were kept till lately in this parish; and even now, the entries from the more remote districts of it are irregular."

UIST (SOUTH).—"There was not a parochial register kept of the births and marriages among the Protestant population, till within the last two years. Two-thirds of the population are Roman Catholics; and, *without an Act of Parliament, it is impossible to keep a regular register of the whole population in a parish so circumstanced.*"

URQUHART AND GLENMORISTON.—"The register of baptisms is now regularly kept; but there is none of deaths."

XVIII.—Kincardineshire,

[Or the Mearns, extends along the sea-shore thirty miles, and stretches inland twenty-two miles. In its southern district is the termination of the great valley of Strathmore, called the "How of the Mearns."]

ARBUTHNOTT.—"The oldest date of these is 1630; from which period they are complete."

BANCHORY-DEVENICK.—"There are no parochial registers of earlier date than the beginning of last century. Since that time, they have been regularly kept, with the exception of a *hiatus* from April 1713 to March 1716."

BANCHORY-TERNAN.—"The session registers begin the 10th of May 1670, those previous to that date having on two occasion been destroyed, 'first, in the burning of the schoole, 1664, and lately by the burning of the schoolmaster's chamber.'" "There is a blank between October 1677 and November

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1682. A separate register for baptisms and marriages commences 1682."

BENHOLME.—"The date of the earliest entry in the parish cash-book is 30th April 1684; and from that time the parochial registers have been regularly kept."

BERVIE.—"The registers, which are in a state of good preservation, have no earlier entries than in 1742 in the book of discipline, and 1766 in the cash-book. There were lately found among some old papers, session records with entries in 1657, but they are so mutilated as scarcely to be legible. The books which contain the present records of the session are two volumes,—the one with the cash entries and distributions for behalf of the poor, and the other containing the minutes connected with the usual business of the session, and the registers of marriages and baptisms. These books are very accurately kept."

DUNNOTTAR.—"The records of the kirk-session commence in 1693; but they contain no remarkable entries."

DURRIS.—"The register of baptisms begins at the year 1717, as does also the register of discipline: and for upwards of forty years, the registers of baptisms, marriages, and deaths appear to have been accurately kept."

ECCLESGREIG OR SAINT CYRUS.—*Vide* Saint Cyrus.

FETTERCAIRN.—"The registers extend backwards to 1669, with partial interruptions."

FETTERESSO.—"The oldest record of the kirk-session is a register of baptisms and proclamations of banns of marriage, beginning 2d January 1620, and continuing, with occasional blanks, to 5th February 1643.—The oldest register of discipline, &c., begins 15th November 1640, and goes on, with many interruptions, till May 1672. It contains the proceedings of the session, and an account of the collections and distributions of money for the poor.—There are no registers from 1672 to 1716."

FORDOUN.—"The earliest entry in the baptism register is dated June 4, 1693; in the session register, September 9, 1747. The parish registers have been regularly kept since then."

GARVOCK.—"The oldest fragments of the registers which remain are dated 1717. At that time, they seem to have been accurately kept. No separate cash-book was used till February 1762; but collections and disbursements were entered in words at

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length on the same page with minutes, and accounts kept in Scottish money till January 5, 1772."

GLENBERVIE.—No return.

KINNEFF.—"The session records are complete from 1663, though the first volume is much injured, and in many places illegible."

LAURENCEKIRK.—"The registers have been, on the whole, regularly kept, and contain tolerably minute records of the proceedings of the kirk-session, of the management of the poor funds, and of baptisms and marriages. The earliest entry is April 3, 1702."

MARYCULTER.—"Registers are regularly kept. Of those that can be now found, none are of ancient date. The oldest register of discipline begins May 1719, and the oldest of births and baptisms 1696."

MARYKIRK.—"The registers of baptisms and marriages have been correctly kept since 1699. The records previous to that date appear to have been lost.—The books connected with the parish are not voluminous."

NIGG.—"The oldest register belonging to this parish is a quarto register of baptisms, kept in tolerable order, the earliest entry of which is dated August 10, 1675. There are also three folio volumes in good order, of the register of doctrine and discipline, the first entry of which is dated December 6, 1757."

SAINT CYRUS OR ECCLESGREIG.—"The oldest minute-book of the kirk-session commences with the date May 24, 1696, and the register of baptisms and marriages with that of April of the same year. Both have been continued with some irregularity to the present time. There are blanks in the minutes from 1732 to 1744, from 1791 to 1797, and from 1810 to 1816; and the volume containing the register of marriages, from 1776 to 1834, appears to have been lost."

STRACHAN.—"The records have been regularly kept since 1704."

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XIX.—Kinross-shire.

[This small county extends from east to west about thirteen miles, and from north to south twelve miles.]

CLEISH.—"*An Act of Parliament is necessary to regulate the parish registers, particularly with regard to the births.*"

KINROSS.—"The session records contain the acts of that court from 8th October 1665 until 13th May 1683. There is also at the end of these records, a register of baptisms, from April 1676 to March 1684. There is a second series from the 20th of May 1683, to the 29th September 1689, with a register of baptisms from the 24th July 1684, to the 23d of August 1689, when the minister, Mr Christie, was removed. The third begins the 29th May 1699, and ends 9th November 1718. The fourth begins 29th January 1719, and ends 24th July 1741. The fifth is from 28th September 1741, to 26th March 1753. The sixth, from 17th April 1753, to 24th July 1754. There is a register of baptisms in a quarto volume from 30th April 1699, and ending 2d April 1727, together with a register of proclamations from the 23d of May 1699, to the 6th of January 1727. Another similar, from 9th April 1727, till 16th April 1770. A register of burying-grounds, and a register of deaths, from 1733 to 1735. Loose minutes, beginning the 4th of July 1754, and ending 6th March 1771. From 1772 the session records are complete; and now every minute is subscribed by the moderator."

ORWELL.—"The date of the earliest entry in the parish register is 30th September 1688. It is not voluminous, owing to a great disinclination on the part of the people to come forward and register either births or deaths. This, however, is a little more attended to now than formerly."

PORTMOAK.—"The parochial register commences in 1703. The records previous to that time are said to have been accidentally burnt. In so far as the affairs of the poor, and record of

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proclamations are concerned, they have been regularly kept; but the register of baptisms is very incorrect, as dissenters have, in general, been very remiss in getting the names of their children entered, and till very lately there was no register of funerals."

XX.—Kirkcudbrightshire.

[The Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, comprising the eastern district of Galloway, extends from east to west forty-four miles, and from north to south forty miles.]

ANWORTH.—No return.

BALMACLELLAN.—"The parochial registers have not been regularly kept, and are not voluminous. The earliest entry was made in 1747."

BALMAGHIE.—"In regard to parochial registers, it may be mentioned that, prior to 1804, but little attention appears to have been bestowed on this particular. Since that date, a register of marriages, births, and baptisms has been regularly kept."

BORGUE.—No return.—The assistant clergyman informs me that:—"the records of births commence in 1742; of marriages, in 1741; of deaths, in 1764; and have been kept regularly, with a few omissions."

BUITTLE.—"The registers consist of minutes of the kirk-session, and of the records of marriages and baptisms. They commenced in 1736, and were regularly kept till 1780. From 1780 to 1807, the record of baptisms is somewhat defective. From 1736 to 1807, the date of the baptism is always entered, that of the birth only occasionally. Since 1807, the date of both the birth and baptism is recorded.—The register of baptisms is not so complete as it ought to have been, owing to dissenters not choosing to enter the births of their children

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in the parish register. The entries are chiefly made by parents belonging to the Established Church."

CARSPHAIRN.—No return.—The clergyman writes :—"I am sorry to say that our system of registration has been, and still is, very defective. There has been a register of births since 1758, but it is very imperfect, and there are no registers of marriages or deaths. On my coming to the parish in 1833, I was disappointed in finding such a deficiency in the records; but I have not been able to make any improvement."

COLVEND AND SOUTHWICK.—"The earliest date of the parochial registers is 1716. They have not been regularly kept."

CROSSMICHAEL.—No return.

DALBY.—No return.

GIRTHON.—No return.

KELLS.—"The parochial registers are imperfect. The first entry is in 1693. The register of baptisms does not appear to have been kept with any regularity previous to 1750.—No register of deaths has been kept."

KELTON.—"It is to be hoped that there are few parishes in Scotland, the registers of which have been so carelessly kept as those of Kelton. The session records extend no farther back than the year 1715. For the next eleven years from that date, the proceedings of the session are regularly minuted, and the register of births is also complete; but from 1726 down to 1762, neither record nor register can be found. For the next twenty-two years they have been regularly kept; but from 1794 down to 1839, no regular records appear to have been kept, and the register of births has been quite neglected. The transactions of the session are now regularly minuted; but so inveterate has become the habit of neglecting the register, that not one parent in ten can be persuaded to record the births of his children."

KIRKBEAN.—"The parish registers do not extend farther back than 1714, and, till 1824, have been very irregularly kept."

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.—"A parochial register is regularly kept by the kirk-session. The oldest record commences in 1692."

KIRKGUNZEON.—"The parochial register was begun in 1705, and has been very irregularly kept. Meetings of session, births, marriages, and collections are all jumbled together.—The first volume of the record comes down to 1770; and from that period to 1800 the record has been lost or mislaid. It has been regularly kept since that time."

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KIRKMABRECK.—"There are three volumes of parish registers. The first volume embraces the time that elapsed between 1703 and 1792. From 1703 to 1739, they have been kept with great regularity; from 1740 to 1756, no entry whatever; 1756 to 1792, kept imperfectly. Some of the intermediate years have no entry, others only one; but towards the middle, and onwards to about the end of the above period, they were kept with great regularity. These records are almost solely confined to sessional matters.—The second volume of the parish register commenced with May 1823, and is carried on with great regularity till May 1834, though in one instance it is rather mutilated. The third volume begins June 1834, and is carried on to the present date with great regularity."

KIRKPATRICK-DURHAM.—No return.—The clergyman writes to me:—"It can scarcely be said that there has been a register of any thing kept in this parish. The only thing of the kind that I have seen since I came to the parish, in the end of the year 1843, is a sort of register which begins with baptisms only, the first entry in which is 15th May 1769; afterwards both births and baptisms are entered, *but it has been so long imperfectly kept, that I do not think it could be received as evidence in any court.* The few entries that it contains have been made without any discoverable rule or order. You will find one entry perhaps in the year 1823, and the very next and subsequent to it will be the year 1810. Whole families are often entered at once, and upon the same page, and thus the only way of discovering whether any particular person's birth or baptism has been entered, is to begin at the beginning and read over the whole book. *Since it came into my hands, I have endeavoured to keep it a little better, but as I have always been expecting the proposed Registration Bill to pass into law, I have not got a new book, and even now it is not kept as it ought to be.* Although I charge nothing for registering, unless I ascertain a child's birth when I baptize it, the parents never think it worth their while to give me a note of it, and with one or two exceptions none of the dissenters have asked me to enter any of their children."

KIRKPATRICK-IRONGRAY.—"The parochial registers are pretty voluminous. The date of the earliest entry is 1691. From 1694 to 1756, they were very accurately kept."

LOCHRUTTON.—"The parochial registers date one hundred and

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thirty-six years back. They are not voluminous, but have been pretty regularly kept."

MINNIGAFF.—"The earliest existing register of births commences in 1694,—there occurs a blank from July 1696 to December 1699,—and again from October 1709 to June 1718, from which period it has been kept to the present time, though a great portion of its contents have been very meagrely recorded. The register of marriages also commences in 1694; a blank occurs from 1696 to 1699, and from 1709 to 1736; from the latter date to 1771 it has been kept with more or less regularity. From 1771 there is a blank of thirty-eight years; from 1809 to 1821 it has been very irregularly kept. After an interval of seventeen years, the registration of marriages was resumed in 1839, and there is every probability of the register being now faithfully kept. There is no record of deaths. The record of the transactions of the kirk-session commences in 1694; the previous records appear to have been destroyed during the incumbency of Mr William Maxwell, the Episcopal curate. A blank similar to those in the other registers occurs after 1696. From 1699 to 1710 they have been faithfully kept. There is a blank from 1710 to 1718, from which date to 1740, the transactions have been regularly recorded. From 1740 to 1795, there does not exist any record; from the latter period, with the exception of six years after 1803, they have been regularly kept to the present time."

NEW ABBEY.—"The parochial registers of baptisms, marriages, and church discipline commenced in May 1691, and have been kept with considerable regularity. The register of burials has been less attended to, but not altogether neglected."

PARTON.—"A register of births and baptisms, commencing in the year 1714, has been kept in this parish, but not with much regularity, until the year 1744, when a complete register of marriages, births and deaths commences, and extends to the year 1783; and from that to the present time, a register of births and baptisms only appears to have been regularly kept."

RERRICK.—"The register of births and marriages commences 22d December 1736, and the minutes of the kirk-session of the parish 18th December 1751. The former has been very correctly kept since 1806, but very irregularly previous to that period."

SOUTHWICK AND COLVEND.—*Vide* Colvend.

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TERREGLES.—"The registers of the parish go no further back than the year 1714, and, generally speaking, have been very imperfectly kept."

TONGLAND.—"The registers of baptisms extend as far back as 1693. For fifty years afterwards, they appear to have been kept with great care, and are in tolerable preservation; but of marriages no entry is made till 1712, between which year and 1753 there appears to be a considerable regularity in the record. There is then a blank till 1807, from which year till 1826 both marriages and baptisms are regularly recorded. For the next six years, there is again a blank in the marriage register; but from 1832 both that and the baptismal one continue to be duly kept. There is no register of deaths."

TROQUEER.—"The register of proclamations begins April 1713; that of baptisms, 14th June 1734. The parish records begin about the same time. All of them are, for a long period, extremely meagre and scanty."

TWYNHOLM.—"The parochial records and registers have been by no means regularly kept, and part of them were consumed by fire. The oldest volume in existence contains the records of the kirk-session, mixed up with a register of births and marriages, from 1693 till 27th October 1703. In this volume of records, there are many entries that are interesting and valuable, as showing the state of the people at that time. From 27th October 1703 till 14th June 1730, there is a blank in the records. From this last date, there are occasional entries till May 21st, 1741. There is then another blank, with the exception of a few loose leaves that appear to have been the scrolls of the session-clerk, till 4th April 1762, and the entries are continued at intervals till 29th April 1804. The register of births and marriages commences in 1763, but does not appear to have been regularly kept. For four years back, the session records and the register of births, deaths and marriages, have been regularly and correctly kept."

URR.—"The ancient parochial registers, and other session records of Urr, are in a very imperfect, mutilated, and almost illegible condition. All the volumes, to the year 1813, are more or less in this condition. There is one volume from the year 1640 to 1660, another from 1701 to about 1712, another from 1736 to about 1769, and another from 1770 to 1813. From 1813 downwards, the session records have been kept with great accuracy."

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XXI.—Lanarkshire,

[Or Clydesdale, extends from north to south fifty-two miles; from east to west thirty-four miles.]

AVONDALE AND STRATHAVEN.—"The following records are at present in the possession of the kirk-session of Avondale.—Minutes of the kirk-session, vol. i. from 1660 to 1701; vol. ii. from 1734 to 1757; vol. iii. from 1779 to 1827; vol. iv. from 1827 to 1834. Registers of births, vol. i. from 1699 to 1785; vol. ii. from 1785 to 1834. Registers of proclamation, vol. i. from 1723 to 1755; vol. ii. from 1775 to 1834. A bound book containing a copy of Shawtonhill's mortification. The Acts of the General Assembly, vol. i. from 1638 to 1649; vol. ii. from 1690 to 1715; vol. iii. 1715 to 1724.—The births are not regularly recorded in the parish register."

BERTRAM SHOTTS.—"The earliest entry in the parochial registers bears date 1641. These registers do not appear to have been regularly kept until the year 1785."

BIGGAR.—"There is a register of births from 1730 to the present date. There is no register either of marriages or deaths. Parents are remiss in registering the births of their children. There are minutes of the kirk-session from 1730 to 1735, and from 1757 to 1759. From the last date to the present, there is no record whatever of their proceedings, if we except the minutes of annual meetings held to examine the state of the poor's fund."

BLANTYRE.—"The parochial register seems to be entire from the year 1667.—No register of deaths has been kept."

BOTHWELL.—"The oldest date in the registers is 7th February, 1700. The number of volumes is about thirty in all. With a few exceptions they have not in general been accurately kept.—The register of baptisms from 1790 to 1796, and part

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of 1797, is in the hands of Mr Chrystal, writer, Stirling, or his heirs."

CADDER.—"The register for births and baptisms commences 28th September, 1662; proclamations, 1st March, 1663.—There are two more volumes, one finished, and the other in progress. The records of the kirk-session commence September 14, 1688.—There is a blank in the records of session from May 8, 1737, till 27th March 1791."

CAMBUSLANG.—"The registers, at present, consist of twenty volumes.—Some older ones were destroyed by a fire, about 1724, and a few have got into private hands, but may yet be recovered. The oldest date in the registers of proclamations and baptisms is June 14, 1657. From this date they have been regularly kept.—A register of burials has been kept with great accuracy."

CAMBUSNETHAN.—No return.

CARLUKE.—"The parish registers are preserved in five volumes, two of which (the oldest) are much tattered, the others in good preservation. The first entry of session proceedings bears date 6th August, 1645. The minutes are regularly kept from that time till March, 1646, whence there is an omission till 1650. Another omission occurs, extending from 1662 to 1694. From the latter year until 1813, an exact account of session matters has been preserved. From 1813, however, no regular entry of minutes had been made, until 1832. A list of births, &c., has been kept from 1735 to the present time, but it is, of course, very limited. A volume of the parish records, embracing the years between 1662 and 1694, is said to have been taken away by a former clergyman, and never recovered."

CARMICHAEL.—"The parochial registers do not extend farther back than 1694. There are eight volumes in the possession of the session-clerk. The register of births and baptisms appears to have been pretty regularly kept; no register of deaths has been kept."

CARMUNNOCK.—"Before the year 1640, a registration of marriages and births began to be kept; but several parts of the register, from decay and other accidental causes, cannot now be read. There is an entire register both of marriages and births from 1765, and the different parochial records are now kept with great accuracy and neatness."

CARNWATH.—No return.—The clergyman and session-clerk

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inform me:—"that there are three volumes containing the registration of births and baptisms, from the year 1709 till 1849, carefully kept by the different session-clerks—the first volume only worn a little at the beginning—being 150 years old. A volume containing the registrations of proclamations and marriages, carefully kept by the session-clerk, from 1826 till 1849; and one volume containing the registration of deaths, with the residences of the persons deceased, causes of death, when such could be ascertained, and ages; carefully kept from 1826, till 1849. The registration of births and baptisms, since the late secession from the Church, it is to be regretted, is not so complete as could be wished, as few of the members of the Free Church now register the births and names of their children in the books of the kirk-session."

CARSTAIRS.—"A correct parish register has been kept for many years, and the session records extend as far back as the year 1672."

COVINGTON AND THANKERTON.—No return.

CRAUFURD.—"The earliest date of the parochial register is 1707. This register has been regularly kept, but is now in a very bad state."

CRAWFORDJOHN.—"The oldest volume of the session records commences 1693, and ends 1709. It is apparently entire and regularly kept. The next volume commences 1714, and the records from that period are uninterrupted till the present day.—There is also a volume containing a duplicate of many of the minutes of session from 1731 to 1797. The oldest register of births and marriages goes back to 1690, and ends 1743; but the leaves are loose, many of them injured by damp, and several lost. The next begins 1743, and ends 1792; the next 1793, and ends 1816; but none of them appear to be complete. In 1817, new and separate books were got for deaths, marriages, and births; the two first have been kept with perfect accuracy, and the last are not so complete."

CULTER.—"The oldest register bears date 1700. The sederunts of session are recorded continuously from that date down to the present time; but there is no record of births, baptisms, or deaths, from 1721 to 1737.—The whole sessional accounts and records are contained in five books or volumes."

DALSERF.—"The registers were formerly very irregularly kept. Indeed, for nearly fifty years preceding 1812, there had been

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no regular session in the parish. In August 1812, a kirk-session was formed, and from that date there are accurate minutes of session business, and carefully kept registers of proclamations of banns and of baptisms. Of late years a register of burials has also been kept. (Since 1831.) The old parochial records are contained in two volumes of a very confused and miscellaneous description. The earliest entry is the registration of a baptism, 30th November, 1738."

DALZIEL.—"The registers commence in the year 1644, and except from 1744 to 1797, have been regularly kept."

DOLPHINTON.—"The parochial registers commence in 1693, and have been but indifferently kept."

DOUGLAS.—"A register of burials has been kept since the beginning of the year 1833.—The register of baptisms commences on the 7th September 1671.—The register of the proceedings of the kirk-session on the 23d December, 1692."

DUNSYRE.—"The earliest registers of the parish are dated June 7, 1690.—They have been regularly kept till the year 1712. An interval then occurs till 1760; after which they are regularly kept to the present day."

EAST KILBRIDE.—*Vide* Kilbride (East).

GLASFORD.—"The earliest is dated 1692. They are rather confused from the first, and have not been regularly attended to for the last thirty-seven years."

GLASGOW.—Although a very able analysis of the bills of mortality has been contributed by Dr Cleland, no return of the dates of the respective registers appears in the New Statistical Account of this City. From Dr Cleland's valuable "Annals," however, and his "Enumeration of the Inhabitants of Glasgow," we gather the following particulars:—

Registers of Baptisms.—"In the year 1609, a register for baptisms began to be kept in the city, under the direction of the session of Glasgow. The first Secession Church was erected in Glasgow in 1741, when a register was opened and continued till 10th September, 1783. In 1751, the Rev. John Paterson, Episcopalian minister, opened a separate register, which is still continued. Since 1795, a private register has also been kept by the Catholic clergy. *But, from these registers, it is improbable that the actual number of births can be shown with any degree of accuracy.*"

Register of Marriages.—"It does not appear, that the re-

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gister for marriages was began in Glasgow so early as that for baptisms, the only authentic record commencing with the eighteenth century."

Register of Burials.—"There was no register for burials in Glasgow, till the year 1613. On the 13th December, that year, the session directed that a register of burials be kept in future; but this does not seem to have been regularly acted upon, till the year 1694."

"Prior to 1790, the books containing the public registrations, [of proclamations of marriages, and registrations of baptisms,] do not seem to have been kept so regular as they have been since that period."

The state of the records of presbytery and general session of Glasgow, commencing in 1580, may be seen in Dr Cleland's "Annals," ii. 475–79.

GOVAN.—"The records of the kirk-session contain an uninterrupted history of its proceedings, from January 15, 1710. Some years ago, an old volume was discovered, and restored to the session, by the descendants of a former elder of the parish. It commences with the 15th of May, 1651, and ends with the 11th of May, 1662. The date of the earliest entry in the register of baptisms and marriages, is July 2, 1690. In the year 1729, in place of the baptisms, the births of children were, for the first time, recorded. Since the year 1817, a list of the interments in the parish church-yard has been kept."

HAMILTON.—"The oldest date in the parochial register is 15th January 1650."

KILBRIDE (East).—"The oldest register extant bears to have been commenced on the 20th of March, 1688. The first register of a marriage is dated the 28th of that month. The first register of a birth is dated the 1st of April of the same year. The register has since been kept with tolerable regularity."

LAMMINGTOUNE AND WANDELL.—*Vide* Wandell.

LANARK.—"The parochial registers consist of 14 volumes; 7 of births, and 7 of marriages. The date of the earliest entry is 1647. The session records reach no farther back than 1699."

LESMAHAGO.—"The parochial registers commence in 1697; since which time they have been pretty regularly kept, and now extend to twenty volumes."

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LIBBERTON AND QUOTHQUAN.—"The earliest date of the parochial registers is 1717. They consist of two volumes, and refer to births and baptisms, marriages and burials. The registration by dissenters is somewhat irregular; but, otherwise, the records are satisfactorily kept."

MONKLAND (OLD OR WEST).—"These consist of seventeen volumes. The oldest legible date is January 24th, 1692."

MONKLAND (NEW).—No return.

NEW MONKLAND.—*Vide* Monkland (New).

OLD OR WEST MONKLAND.—*Vide* Monkland (Old or West).

PETTINAIN.—"The oldest parochial register bears date 1689, and for a considerable period of time, down to 1780, the transactions of the heritors and kirk-session appear to have been pretty regularly recorded; but between that year and 1803, much less attention has been paid, and the consequence is, that they are very defective. The different registers of births, marriages, and deaths, are now kept with the greatest accuracy."

QUOTHQUAN AND LIBBERTON.—*Vide* Libberton.

ROBERTON AND WISTON.—*Vide* Wiston.

RUTHERGLEN.—"There is no enumeration of births, marriages, and deaths in this parish, by which the probability of human life can be ascertained with any degree of accuracy."

STONEHOUSE.—"There are no parochial records of births and baptisms much beyond 100 years. One or two volumes previous to the present have been lost, and it is now very difficult to ascertain the number of births or deaths in the parish. There is a list of proclamation of banns kept by the treasurer for the poor; but no register of the marriages that are actually celebrated."

STRATHAVEN AND AVONDALE.—*Vide* Avondale.

SYMINGTON.—"The registers consist of the records of the kirk-session, a register of births, and accounts of the poor, commencing in the year 1709; but neither of them have been regularly kept nor well preserved."

THANKERTON AND COVINGTON.—*Vide* Covington.

WALSTON.—"The registers consist of a volume containing marriages and births from the year 1680 down to the present time, and three volumes of acts and proceedings of the kirk-session. Of these, the first commences in 1703.—On the whole, it may be said, that the registers have been anything but well kept."

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WANDELL AND LAMMINGTOUNE.—"The oldest register at present known to exist commences with 6th February 1645; by an entry in which, it appears that the earliest volumes have been lost or destroyed. This first volume ends with October 16, 1660; and, with the volume commencing about 1695 and ending 1709, as also the next beginning 1715 and ending 1722, has been carefully kept. The next in succession commences in 1738 and ends 1753; another then commences, and ends in 1768. The sixth begins in September 1774, and ends with 1813. Part of the register of baptisms is confused and ill-written, particularly between 1813 and 1821. In all these registers, the birth is seldom entered, merely the baptisms; and few marriages or deaths are recorded. A new register and session-book was purchased soon after the induction of the present clergyman, in which all births, marriages, deaths, and burials, in the united parish, are carefully entered."

WEST OR OLD MONKLAND.—*Vide* Monkland (West or Old).

WISTON and ROBERTON.—"The books belonging to the kirk-session of the old parish of Roberton have unfortunately been lost, and no trace of them can be discovered. The earliest of those belonging to the old parish of Wiston bears the date of 1694, and with occasional, but trifling interruptions, they are extant from that period to the present.—There is no register of deaths kept in this parish."

XXII.—Linlithgowshire,

[Or West-Lothian, extends from north to south twenty miles, and from east to west fifteen miles.]

ABERCORN.—"The minutes of kirk-session reach from 1691 to the present time, with the exception of the years from 1737 to 1750 inclusive, during which a protracted vacancy occurred. The register of baptisms commences with the year 1585, some

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of the earlier portions are, however, imperfect. The record of marriage proclamations and that of deaths are complete from 1700."

BATHGATE.—"The registers of this parish are somewhat voluminous. They had been well kept, except about the commencement of the present century. Portions, however, have been lost. The register of births begins in 1672, and, with a blank between 1684 and 1687, and another between 1694 and 1721, continues to the present time. The register of proclamations also begins in 1672, and is perfect, with the omission of but two years to 1767. From that date to 1789, a record is possessed only for six years. From 1789 the register is complete. The register of deaths begins 1698, and continues to 1710. From 1710 to 1769, a record is preserved only for eighteen scattered years. From 1769, the register is complete. Of the records of the kirk-session's actings, vol. i. embraces the period from 1633 to 1645, and from 1647 to 1650; vol. ii. from 1672 to 1689. In other three volumes, the record is complete from 1694 to 1792. From that year to 1820, only some loose scrolls of minutes are in existence; but from 1820 to this day they are complete."

BORROWSTOWNNESS.—"The parochial records consist of, 1st, five volumes of minutes of session, regularly kept from 1694; 2d, six volumes of registers of births, baptisms, proclamations, and marriages; the oldest volumes imperfect; the earliest entry is dated 1648; 3d, two volumes recording deaths, the first from 1736 to 1783, the second from 1808 to the present time; 4th, several volumes relating to the management of the poor's fund."

CARRIDEN.—"The registers have, upon the whole, been kept with great regularity. Seven volumes contain the collections and disbursements for the poor, from 1688 down to the present time, without any interuption but between 1708 and 1714. The session minutes occupy six volumes, commencing with the sederunt dated 27th January, 1691, and have been regularly recorded, with only two exceptions, the one amounting to about two months, the other to five years. The registers of baptisms and marriages include four volumes, the first entry of baptism being dated 1687, that of marriage, 1688; and both records coming down to the present day, with only one interval in the former of about seven years, and one of about one year in the latter.—Besides these, there are several odd volumes, and a

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register of deaths and burials; but since 1806, it is very partial and defective."

DALMENY.—"The earliest date of the parochial registers is 1628. They are considerably dilapidated, and sometimes irregular, till within the last century; from which time, they have been kept with considerable accuracy."

ECCLESMACHAN.—"These exist in nearly unbroken sequence from 1662. The oldest, which is written in a fair hand, is entitled, 'Episcopall Discipline exercised by the Kirk-Session of Ecclesmachan.'"

LINLITHGOW.—"The earliest of parochial registers is February 1613, and the volumes are regularly kept."

LIVINGSTONE.—"Parochial registers were begun in 1696, and have been kept regularly since, but, owing to the smallness of the parish, are not voluminous."

QUEENSFERRY.—"The parochial registers extend from 1635 to the present time. The first entry in the record of baptisms is 1635, and in that of marriages, 1635. They are not voluminous, but have been regularly kept, though the register of baptisms appear, with a few exceptions, since the commencement of the Secession, to contain only the names of those connected with the Established Church."

TORPHICHEN.—"The earliest entry in the parochial registers bears the date of 1650. Since that time they have been pretty regularly kept, though they are somewhat meagre in their details."

UPHALL.—"Registers of marriages and baptisms seem to have been regularly kept, and are for the most part extant, for upwards of two hundred and forty years. Records of the deeds of session have been regularly kept since the establishment of Presbyterianism after the Revolution. During the time of Episcopacy, before the Revolution, a register of burials seems to have been kept, which is still extant; but since that time, this was for the most part neglected, till the beginning of the year 1840, when the regular registration of burials was commenced."

WHITBURN.—No return.

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XXIII.—Morayshire.

☞ *Vide* XIII.—Elgin or Morayshire.

XXIV.—Nairnshire.

[This small county, a part of the ancient province of Moray, extends from north to south twenty-two miles, and from east to west fifteen miles.]

Ardclach.—"The registers of the parish commence with an entry of date 8th October 1648, and are voluminous and regularly kept."

Auldearn.—"From the negligence of the session-clerks at some former periods, or, from other causes, some of the parochial registers are lost, others are almost illegible, and the date at which they commence is therefore not easily ascertained."

Cawdor.—No return.—The clergyman informs me that:—"the register of baptisms and marriages of the parish commences in the year 1719. It does not appear that any blanks occur in the register. There is no record of deaths kept. The records are more carefully kept than seems to have been the case formerly."

Nairn.—"There is a register of baptisms, and one of marriages, both commencing 5th March 1708; and a register of discipline, commencing February 1768."

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XXV.—Orkney.

[The Orkney Islands are sixty-seven in number, of which twenty-nine only are inhabited.]

BIRSAY.—"The parochial registers go so far back as 1631. They consist of five volumes, and are, upon the whole, in tolerably good condition. The register of baptisms and marriages commenced in 1645, and has been continued to the present time."

BURNESS AND CROSS.—*Vide* Cross.

BURRAY AND SOUTH RONALDSAY.—*Vide* Ronaldsay (South).

CROSS AND BURNESS.—"There are, or rather were, two parochial registers,—a register of births and baptisms, and a register of marriages, commencing in 1711, and kept apparently with great regularity, until 1793; since which time, a great majority of the births have not been registered, and no register of marriages has been kept."

DEERNESS.—"There is only one register, and it relates to marriages and baptisms. It commences in the year 1753, and, except for a few years, has been all along regularly kept."

EAGLESHAY AND ROUSAY.—*Vide* Rousay.

EDAY AND STRONSAY.—*Vide* Stronsay.

EVIE AND RENDALL.—"The parochial registers of Rendall were lost, in consequence of the house where they were kept having been burnt. There is one volume of the Evie registers extant, but it is quite in tatters. It contains minutes of session from August 1725 to January 1759; also registers of births and marriages from 1725 to 1802. There is a new volume for the united parishes, in which are recorded baptisms from 1802, marriages from 1814, deaths from 1816, to this date; and, since May 1830, the minutes of session have also been regularly kept."

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FIRTH AND STENNESS.—"A register of baptisms and marriages has been regularly kept for a long time."

FLOTTA AND WALLS.—*Vide* Walls.

GRÆMSAY AND HOY.—*Vide* Hoy.

HARRAY.—"The earliest records of the kirk-session of this parish go so far back as the year 1796. The earliest register of baptisms is dated in the year 1784, and has been continued to the present time."

HOLME AND PAPLAY.—"The register of births and marriages begins in 1654. The record of the kirk-session begins in 1673."

HOY AND GRÆMSAY.—"The parochial registers have been regularly kept since the year 1799."

KIRKWALL AND SAINT OLA.—"The parochial registers, in the custody of the kirk-session, consist of five volumes of register of baptisms, extending from 1657 to the present time, without interruption; three volumes of register of marriages, from 1657 to the current year; and five volumes of the minutes of session, containing the *res gestæ*, from 1626 to 1840, with the exception of ten years, from 1659 to 1669, the records of which appear to have been lost. No regular or continuous register of deaths or burials was kept till within the last fifty years."

LADY.—No return.

ORPHIR.—"The earliest date of baptisms is 1711; of marriages, 1718; of deaths, 1817. This last was begun, in consequence of the express orders of the General Assembly."

PAPLAY AND HOLME.—*Vide* Holme.

RENDALL AND EVIE.—*Vide* Evie.

RONALDSAY (SOUTH) AND BURRAY.—No return.

ROUSAY AND EAGLESHAY.—"The earliest register commences 16th September, 1733, and ends 11th January, 1747. The next commences 13th May, 1758, and is continued to this date. Both have been tolerably well kept."

SAINT ANDREWS.—"The only parochial register is the session records, which extends backwards to the year 1657, and contains an account of births, marriages, and sessional transactions. It was accurately kept till the year 1796, inclusive; but from that period till 1804, it was sadly neglected. And, notwithstanding the exertions of those who have since had the charge of it, to render it more complete for the succeeding

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period, it still forms a very imperfect record of the parochial events of the present century,—the carelessness or bigotry of dissenters often preventing them from applying for the registration of their children's names."

SAINT OLA AND KIRKWALL.—*Vide* Kirkwall.

SANDWICK.—"The date of the earliest entries in our parochial register of births is 22d September 1728, and in that of marriages, 20th April 1727. They have for some years been kept and preserved with great care; but they do not appear to have been so formerly."

SHAPINSHAY.—"The records are the following:—No. 1, of marriages and baptisms; marriages, from 13th November 1632, to 21st July 1702; baptisms, from 3d November 1632, to 19th November 1669. No. 2, of marriages and baptisms; marriages, from 1st November 1758, to 6th August 1793; baptisms, from 1st November 1758, to 12th August 1793. No. 3, of marriages, baptisms, and deaths, from 12th September 1793, to the present period. All regularly kept."

SOUTH RONALDSAY AND BURRY.—*Vide* Ronaldsay (South.)

STENNESS AND FIRTH.—*Vide* Firth.

STROMNESS.—"The registers extend back to the year 1695; but they are neither voluminous, nor have they been regularly kept,—except under the former incumbent."

STRONSAY AND EDAY.—No return.

WALLS AND FLOTTA.—"Unfortunately, there are few records in the parish, and these do not extend to a remote date."

WESTRAY.—"There are only two registers kept in this parish, viz., a register of baptisms and another of marriages. The baptism register commences with the year 1733, and the marriage register reaches no farther back than the year 1784; and both have been brought down, with very few omissions, to the present time."

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XXVI.—Peebles-shire,

[Or Tweeddale, extends from north to south thirty miles, and from east to west twenty-two miles.]

BROUGHTON, GLENHOLM, AND KILBUCHO.—"The parochial registers go back as far as the year 1700. Large portions of them have been lost; but they are now, and have for some years past been, exceedingly well kept."

DRUMMELZIER.—"The registers begin 1649, and have been regularly kept ever since, except from the year 1683 to 1689, during which period the minister was ejected for non-conformity, except also from 1694 to 1700, and from 1702 to 1705, in which intervals there were vacancies in the incumbency of the parish; and during vacancies the registrations seem to have been altogether neglected."

EDDLESTONE.—"A parochial register of births and baptisms, marriages, and deaths, has been regularly kept since 26th December 1725. It is worthy of remark, that this register at first seems to have been kept solely for ecclesiastical purposes, the baptisms only being recorded, and not the births, from the year 1725 till 1780. Since that time, both the births and baptisms have been regularly recorded, in so far as this was practicable."

GLENHOLM, KILBUCHO, AND BROUGHTON.—*Vide* Broughton.

INNERLEITHEN.—"The registers of the parish have been preserved, and are legible from the year 1660.—The earliest registers give merely an account of marriages, and probably only a part of these."

KILBUCHO, GLENHOLM, AND BROUGHTON.—*Vide* Broughton.

KIRKURD.—"Three books exist, containing part of the records of the kirk-session. The first begins in September 23, 1705, and ends February 23, 1707; the second begins November 10, 1717, and ends July 12, 1724; the third begins January

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3, 1725, and ends July 30, 1738. The registers have been regularly kept from October 27, 1742, to the present time."

LINTON.—No return.—The clergyman informs me:—"that the register of baptisms commenced on 19th November 1656, to 1686; 19th July 1696, to 1849. There is a blank from 1686, to 1696. No register of marriages or deaths is kept."

LYNE AND MEGGET.—"A register was begun in January 1649, in which were concisely stated the acts of the session, purposes* of marriage, baptisms, weekly collections and disbursements for the poor. But there have been at times long blanks in the record, or large portions of it must have been lost. In the course of time it seems to have been almost confined to receipts and expenditure in behalf of the indigent. But for a number of years past this register has been more carefully and regularly kept. There has hitherto been no register of deaths, and that of births is not quite complete, as some parents, especially dissenters, often neglect to record in it."

MANNER.—"The earliest entry in these registers, which seem in some respects to have been kept with considerable regularity, is dated 1663."

MEGGET AND LYNE.—*Vide* Lyne.

NEWLANDS.—"The old session record begins with a mutilated leaf of a minute in 1650.—No record is kept of scandals, nor of marriages, nor deaths; and even that of births is not completely regular, there being *no sufficient compulsitor to enforce registration.*"

PEEBLES.—"The oldest session record is entitled 'a Register of the Kirke at Peebles, containing the discipline of the sessione by the elders, and diligence of the deacones for the poore, there begun in the year 1657. Mr John Hay, minister.'—The records appear to have been kept with great accuracy till 1760, from which time till 1808, they are written on detached pieces of paper, and, like the Sibylline leaves, they have been *ludibria ventis*, as many of them are irrecoverably lost. The presbytery and synod records extend back as far as 1596, and are in a state of good preservation. The oldest register of baptisms begins in 1622, and ends in 1659; that of funerals, begins in 1660."

SKIRLING.—"The date of the earliest parish record is the 6th of July 1654. From that time till the year 1674, the most pointed† regularity seems to have been maintained, in record-

* *Proposals*, or *intentions*. † Punctual.

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ing every transaction connected with the session. Afterwards, to the close of that century, few entries appear to have been made. On the 23d of August 1700, regular registration again commences, and is carried on with care down to the 16th of March 1713, when it is again given up as to every thing except births: and that, too, ceases to be attended to in the month of April 1719, and in the last entry made the date is omitted. After this there is a complete chasm till 1750, from which period the records are regularly and carefully kept. The population being small, the parochial registers are not voluminous."

STOBO.—"The date of the earliest entry of the parochial register of births, marriages, and deaths, is in the year 1653; since that period a register has been regularly kept, and the principal events in the parish briefly recorded."

TRAQUAIR.—"The parochial registers reach back only to the Revolution.—They are exceedingly defective, especially for the last sixty years."—The clergyman, after indicating a laudable anxiety for registration, puts the following query:—"*Would it not be sufficient for every purpose either of state or of the session, to have a law passed compelling all kirk-sessions to have every birth and baptism, marriage, death, and burial, in their respective parishes, recorded by the session-clerk of the parish in which they take place, by a penalty to be recovered from the members of the kirk-session, by any person who can prove that he requested the record to be made, if not executed within one month or less after the time of such request being made. These records to be kept gratis, but a fee to be charged on every extract that is demanded?*"

TWEEDSMUIR.—"The registers commence in June 1722, and have been kept with tolerable regularity."

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XXVII.—Perthshire.

[This large county comprises the districts of Menteith, Stratherne, Gowrie, Stormont, Strathardle, Glenshee, Atholl, Breadalbane, Rannoch, Balquhidder, and Glenorchy. It extends from east to west seventy miles, from north to south sixty-six miles.]

ABERDALGIE AND DUPPLIN.—"The oldest session record is of date February 14, 1613, and is preserved with singular regularity, and but few omissions, down to 1656.—On 23d September 1691, the session records are resumed, after a blank of thirty-five years, and are continued with great regularity till about October 1718. From 1717, to 1736, the volume of the kirk-session records has either been lost or destroyed."

ABERFOYLE.—"One of the parochial registers is dated as far back as 1698, but it is now nearly illegible. The other registers, which are not voluminous, appear to have been kept with tolerable regularity since 1753."

ABERNETHY.—"The register of baptisms commences in the year 1667, and, with the exception of a few years before and after the Secession, has been continued to the present time. It is to be observed, however, that in this, as in other parishes in similar circumstances, many of the dissenters, as well as some connected with the Established Church, have not registered the births of their children. Hence the little value of the register as a statistical document in relation to the number of births in the parish. The same remark applies to any records which have been kept of marriages and burials, &c. *The defects which exist in all our parishes, with few exceptions, in the system of registration, suggests the necessity of some legislative measure on the subject.*"

ABERNYTE.—"The parochial register commenced in the year 1664.—But it is not very regularly kept."

ALYTH.—"The parish records are in general full and well kept. The register of births and marriages commences in 1624, and

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the minutes of session in 1637. They are comprised in nine volumes of different sizes.—No obituary has keen kept till very lately."

ARNGASK.—"The records consist of several volumes, and, upon the whole, have been regularly kept. They extend back to 1688, and the date of their earliest entry is the 18th December of that year."

AUCHTERARDER.—"The records of the kirk-session have been kept with great accuracy. Those on baptisms, marriages, and burials, commence in 1661; those on discipline and poor's funds, in 1668. They amount to thirteen volumes, and the entries seem continuous."

AUCHTERGAVEN.—"The first entry in the parish register is dated 7th December 1740. Since that time the cash collected at the church for the poor, the dates of marriages and baptisms, and the minutes of the kirk-session, as well as the money distributed to the poor, have been regularly kept; and are contained in four folio volumes.—No register of deaths was kept in the parish till the beginning of 1833."

BALQUHIDDER.—"There is a register of baptisms and marriages kept in the parish, the earliest date of which is November 1696: it is regularly kept."

BENDOCHY.—"The registers are contained in seven volumes. The earliest date of the baptism register is 23d January 1642. It has been regularly kept, with the exception of a blank from 12th May 1695, to 29th December 1700. The proceedings of session commence with 11th September 1692, and are continued regularly to this date, with the exception of some omissions in the end of last century, and beginning of this. The marriage register begins in 1700, and the record of proclamation of banns has been regularly kept. There is no register of deaths."

BLACKFORD.—"The parish records extend back to 1738, and have been regularly kept since that period."

BLAIR-ATHOLL.—"The register of marriages, or rather of the proclamation of banns, is well kept. There never was a register of burials; and the register of births and baptisms, pretty regular and well kept from 1750, fell into disrepute with the parishioners after the militia ferment of 1798, and cannot yet be said to have acquired its former regularity."

BLAIRGOWRIE.—"The earliest register now extant belonging to

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this parish commences in the year 1647, and continues down to August 1658. There is no register from the latter period down to 1702, from which time to the present the books are complete, and appear to have been regularly and accurately kept. The book or books in which the register betwixt 1658 and 1702 was kept, have been lost. The existing volumes contain the register of births and marriages, and the records of session, but no register of deaths."

CALLANDER.—No return.—The session-clerk informs me that:—"the date of the records of births and marriages—for there is no record of deaths—commences in the year 1770. These records seem to have been well and regularly kept upon the whole, and there is only one blank which I can find, and it occurs in that of births, there having been no registration in that department since the 16th of May 1848, up to this present date."

CAMBUSMICHAEL AND SAINT MARTIN'S.—*Vide* Saint Martin's.

CAPUTH.—"The register of baptisms and marriages, and records of session, commence with the year 1671, and are continued without intermission till the present date, though some of the books are greatly worn and decayed. The insertion of births appears to have been omitted till a recent period. A register of deaths has been twice attempted, but left off after a few years' trial, owing, no doubt, to the want of fees to the clerk, and *there being no proper authority to enforce the registration, as in the case of baptisms and marriages.*"

CARGILL.—No return.

CLUNIE.—No return.

COLLACE.—"The parochial registers go back to 1713, and have been pretty accurately kept. They consist of six thin folio volumes."

COMRIE.—"The registers consist of ten volumes; the date of their earliest entry is 1693. The money transactions seem to have been always regularly recorded, and the records of marriages and baptisms are tolerably full.—The register of births is important, and that of deaths still more so."

COUPAR-ANGUS.—"The date of the oldest of the parochial registers is 1682; and they appear to have been regularly and carefully kept.—There is no regular register of deaths."

CRIEFF.—"The registers of Crieff do not extend far back, and they are very incomplete. The earliest entry is 20th Novem-

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ber 1692; and from that date to the present (August 1837) the register of proclamations of banns is complete, with the exception of one blank between the 1st of March 1713, and the 6th of November 1748. The register of births and baptisms extends from the 27th December 1692, to the present time, with the exception of a blank between the 8th of June and the 16th of November 1746. The records of discipline are very defective. They begin 3d October 1699; and from that date to the present time there are no fewer than four blanks, viz., 15th of February 1713, to 16th September 1723; 14th October 1739 to 1st November 1746; 26th October 1760, to 12th July 1761; and 6th December 1772, to 11th April 1833. The accounts of the poor's funds commence 19th June 1700; and from that to the present time, the following blanks occur, viz,, 18th March 1713 to 25th October 1747, and 19th November 1790 to 24th May 1807. The whole is comprised in eleven volumes of different sizes. The deaths have never been recorded."

CULROSS.—"The earliest date of the session records is the year 1646. They seem full and accurately kept from that year to 1662. There is a blank from that time till the year 1676. Thence until the year 1684, they are again full. There is again a blank from that year to the year 1700; and from that period they continue without interruption to the present time. —There is a great irregularity in registering baptisms.

DOWALLY AND DUNKELD.—*Vide* Dunkeld.

DRON.—"There is a register of baptisms, marriages, collections, and minutes of session, in eight volumes, commencing in 1682, and continued apparently with considerable regularity to the present time."

DULL.—"The registers consist of six volumes, two of which contain entries of baptisms and proclamations of marriage banns; other two, cases of church discipline; and the remaining two exhibit transactions relative to the poor, and economics of the parish. The earliest entry is made in the year 1703, during the incumbency of the Rev. John M'Kerchar, who appears to be a greater observer of discipline than of book-keeping. At that period, registration of births and marriage banns may not unfrequently be seen intermingled with minutes of session, recording the compearance of persons guilty of moral delinquency before the congregation upon

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twelve, and sometimes more, consecutive Sabbaths, previously to their being absolved from scandal. Besides being thus irregularly kept, intervals of time, and that at different periods, were allowed to elapse without any entries whatever being made in the earlier registers; but, in the more recent ones, these faults have been in a great measure avoided."

DUNBARNY.—"These compose eight volumes, viz., two in quarto, and six in folio. The register of baptisms is comprised in the two quarto volumes, and commences in 1594. The session-records, or minutes of discipline begin at the date of April 27, 1657. In all probability, two volumes of these records are lost, one embracing the occurrences of some years previous to 1594, and the other commencing with that date. The volumes which are extant have been kept with great accuracy and minuteness, except a few chasms during the period of the Revolution in 1688, the Rebellions in 1715 and 1745, and for more than a year about 1777 (through the culpable negligence of the session-clerk, for which he was dismissed from his office), they are nearly entire.—The register of deaths, or, as it is entitled, 'the names of the defunct persons,' begins on December 1, 1598, and ends in October 1615, after which there is merely a record of mortcloths. The register of proclamations of marriages dates from February 1598, but a few blanks occur in it as well as in the register of baptisms."

DUNBLANE.—"The registers have been preserved with considerable care. The presbytery records of Dunblane extend back as far as 1616. The record of the Episcopal synod of Dunblane, from 1662 to 1688, is extant, comprehending the whole of Leighton's Episcopate."

DUNKELD (LITTLE).—"The register of births and baptisms begins in 1759; and the register of proclamation of banns for marriages in the same year.—There is no record kept of burials."

DUNKELD AND DOWALLY.—"The register of discipline does not extend farther back than 1830. The former register has been accidentally mislaid. There is no register of deaths. The register of births, baptisms, and marriages, go back to 1672. The inhabitants, however, are not very strict in recording their families' births and baptisms; but this may, in part, be attributed to the circumstance of a division of the town lying in the parish of Caputh."

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DUNNING.—"The first record of session begins 19th April 1691. The register of marriages begins 20th January 1709, and is discontinued after October 28, 1714. The register of baptisms begins May 16, 1708, and ends October 23, 1716. These registers have been resumed at different dates, but have not the appearance of having been accurately kept. Indeed, the register of baptisms cannot be expected to be so, as few of the dissenters record their baptisms, at least with the parochial clerk. Some improvement, however, particularly in the registration of banns, has taken place since 1783."

DUPPLIN AND ABERDALGIE.—*Vide* Aberdalgie.

ERROL.—"The registers commence in the times of the Reformation. Including the session records, and the accounts connected with the management of the poor (all of which are generally embodied in different parts of the same volume), they extend to thirteen volumes, coming down to the year 1837, inclusive. The first entry in the register of baptisms is dated December 27, 1553. Till within the last three years, there is no separate register of deaths or burials, except from 1783 to 1789. In the session records there is a blank between the years 1654 and 1666; and from the year 1788 to 1819, there are only a few detached minutes, but no regular record."

FORGANDENNY.—No return.—The clergyman sends me the following accurate information:—"The parochial registers of this parish commence in the year 1695, and have been regularly kept from that time to the present without blank or interruption. In addition to six volumes of sessional records of cases of discipline, &c., there are 5 volumes containing a register of births and baptisms, and proclamations for marriage. The first entries respectively are as follows:—Marriages, September 5, 1695, 'This day John Small in ye parioch of Dinning, & Janet M'Gee in the parrioch of Dunblane, were married here, having brought along with them sufficient Testificates from their respective pariochs.'—Births and baptisms, September 4, 1695, 'This day William Arnott of Whitehill of Strewie in Forteviot parioch, had a daughter baptised named Margaret.' But since the year 1737 the entries have been more exact, recording the day of birth as well as the baptism. The following is the first entry after the change.—September 18, 1737, 'David Thomson in Forgandenny had a son baptised who was born the 13th of said month about 8 of the clock—called

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David.' And for the last 50 years the registers are still more complete. I give the last entry as a specimen;—

'CARSTAIRS. 'Feb. 18, 1849.

'Born Catherine lawful daughter to Ruthven Carstairs (Gardener to the Rt. Hon. Lord Ruthven) and Ann Cameron his wife—the said Catherine was baptised before the congregation, on Sabbath the 11th of March, by the Rev. John Wilson, Forgandenny.'

The only register of deaths is in the session cash book, in which an entry is made of the sums paid for the use of the mortcloth. This record is also complete from the year 1695 to the present time. The penmanship of the earlier volumes is very distinct and beautiful, and altogether the registers seem to have been accurately kept. I may add that parents belonging to the Established Church are generally very attentive in registering the births of their children, but dissenters for the most part are very negligent of that duty."

FORTEVIOT.—"There is a register of births, commencing in 1710; and excepting a blank from 1713 to 1720, it has been regularly kept from that time to the present."

FORTINGAL.—"The earliest entry in the registers now extant, is 1748. They are now very irregularly kept, not a tithe of the births or baptisms being recorded.—There are no registers of burials kept."

FOSSAWAY AND TULLIEBOLE.—"No register of deaths is kept."

FOWLIS WESTER.—"The earliest entry in the parochial registers is in 1674. They are voluminous, and regularly kept, with the exception of a few years after the Revolution."

GASK.—The earliest date of the parochial register is the 10th of January 1669, and it ends 28th December 1679. Next volume commences 25th May 1703, and ends 20th July 1744. Third volume begins 29th December 1756, and has been regularly kept since that time."

GLENDOVAN.—"The records commence in the year 1700."

INCHTURE.—"There are nine volumes of parochial registers, sessional records, heritors' minutes, &c., pretty regularly kept. The earliest entry is 1623. For a considerable period in the beginning of that century, there were no records of session kept, and different kinds of business were mingled together throughout several of the volumes. Some of the records of Rossie are preserved in one of the volumes."

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KENMORE.—"The registers go a considerable way back, the first entry being in 1636. From that date it would appear, though part of the records have been lost, that marriages, burials, births, and baptisms were registered; and considering the large and scattered nature of the parish, the different entries seem to have been made with laudable minuteness; much more so, indeed, than they are at the present day. A record has also been all along regularly kept of the proceedings of the kirk-session, whether in matters of discipline, or in the management of the funds for the poor."

KILLIN.—"The register for proclamations commences in 1687, and the register of baptisms in 1689; and, with the exception of ten years, from 1717 to 1727, they have been regularly kept to this date. The meetings of session are not recorded till 1771.—There is no register of deaths kept."

KILMADOCK.—"The parochial registers commence in 1623. They are not voluminous. One volume was destroyed by fire in the school-house."

KILSPINDIE.—"The registers of this parish consist of several volumes, in which are also included the minutes of the kirk-session. The earliest entry is dated July 27, 1656. They are in pretty good order, and appear to have been regularly kept down to the present time."

KINCARDINE-IN-MONTEITH. — "The books of discipline in this parish, which are not voluminous, dated from 1695 to 1734,—contain a minute account of the parochial collections and disbursements.—The book of discipline has been regularly kept to the present time. There is also a register of births regularly kept by the session-clerk. The registry of baptisms commenced in 1691, and that of marriages in 1692, and have been distinctly kept.—No register of deaths is kept."

KINCLAVEN.—"The parochial registers, consisting of six volumes, commence in 1725, and do not appear to have been kept with sufficient care,—several of the volumes being a good deal torn, the writing defaced. It is to be regretted that parents are not sufficiently sensible of the importance of registering the births and baptisms of their children. Among the dissenters, especially, great negligence in this respect still prevails; although, to induce them to do so, it has been the practice, during several years, to exact no fees for such registrations."

KINFAUNS.—"The registers of this parish, regularly kept, are

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only two in number, viz., a register of births and baptisms, and a register of marriages. Both these commence in 1646, and are continued to the present time, except that in the former there is a blank from 1691 to 1700, and in the latter from 1692 to 1700. Since the year 1825, what was before only a register of baptisms, has been a register of both births and baptisms. Previous to that year, only the child's name and the date of its baptism, together with the name, designation, and residence of the father, were set down; the date of its birth and name of the mother being seldom, if ever, mentioned.—There has never been anything that could be called a regular register of deaths kept in this parish. In the year 1783, a register of burials was commenced, which was discontinued again in 1793.—From 1793, indeed, to 1816, the dates of both the deaths and burials of a few distinguished persons, amounting to only nine in all, are set down; but, since the last-mentioned year, no register whatever of this kind has been kept. Besides the above, there are also the minutes of the kirk-session."

KINLOCH.—"The first register extant of the kirk-session of Kinloch commences in 1697; the second in 1726; the third in 1741; the fourth in 1762; the fifth in 1783; the sixth in 1803; and the seventh in 1823. The first of these registers is much decayed, and in many places illegible. Upon the whole, they seem to have been well kept, but the same book has been devoted to different purposes."

KINNAIRD.—"A parochial register is kept with great neatness and regularity. The first entry is dated December 1633."

KINNOULL.—"The session registers commence in 1618, and, with the exception of the period between 1725 and 1730, have been regularly brought down the present time.—of burials no register is kept beyond the mortcloth book."

KIRKMICHAEL.—"These begin in the year 1650, and contain records of the marriages and births, and, at times, of deaths. They have not been regularly kept till of late years."

LECROPT.—No return.

LETHENDY.—"The first register extant of the kirk-session of Lethendy commences in 1698; the second in 1754; and the third in 1823. It is unfortunate that each of these registers has been devoted to several purposes, such as acts of church discipline, collections and distributions for the poor, marriages,

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and baptisms, &c. Some of the registers have, upon the whole, been well kept, but are much injured by having been exposed to damp. Others of them have been very carelessly kept for the last twenty or thirty years, owing very much to the circumstance, it is thought, that, although there was a session-clerk, there was no session for the greater part of the above period."

LITTLE DUNKELD.—*Vide* Dunkeld (Little).

LOGIERAIT.—"The most complete (one other volume excepted) is a volume containing minutes from 1639 to 1664. This volume was recovered and restored to the kirk-session by Principal Lee, in 1819.—The remaining fragments are from 1672 to 1682, and thereafter, with many breaks and lost leaves, down to 1714, after which period the record is continued with rather more regularity down to the beginning of this century, when it becomes, in all respects, more regular and complete.—There is no register of deaths."

LONGFORGAN.—"There is a register of baptisms, commencing in 1635, and one of marriages, in 1633, in five volumes, two of which are in good condition, the other three being somewhat torn, and the writing in many places not very legible. The records of the kirk-session begin in 1654, and consist of eight volumes, some of which are in a very indifferent state of preservation; but, in so far as a judgment can be formed, they all appear to have been pretty regularly kept."

MADDERTY.—"The register of baptisms commences 25th July 1709; the kirk-session minutes commence in February 1701; the registers of collections, 1741; the minutes of the meeting of heritors, 1796."

MEIGLE.—"The earliest date of the register of baptisms is the 31st of July 1727. It is pretty regularly kept; but no register will be ever quite complete, *till it be made imperative on dissenters, and all persons, to record the baptism of their children.*

METHVEN.—"The earliest register of this parish extant, or known ever to have existed, appears to have been commenced in the year 1662, and, with the exception of nineteen years, that is, from 1730, to 1749, the record has been continued up to the present time.—The register is not voluminous, considering the extensive period which it embraces, but, with the exception above noticed, it seems upon the whole to have been regularly kept.—*If there be any advantage in the registration of*

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births, either in a public or private point of view, the method by which this can be most generally accomplished, is certainly a desideratum of no mean importance."

MONEYDIE.—"The parish register goes back as far as the year 1655, and has been kept with tolerable correctness. One volume, however, embracing the period between April 1680, and August 1717, has been lost. There is also an important blank from August 12, 1666, to August 28, 1670.—Of deaths no register is kept."

MONIVAIRD AND STROWAN.—"Up to 1835, the parochial registers consist of six volumes, commencing with September 9th, 1685, but are not very perfect. Money transactions, proclamations, and baptisms, with occasional minutes of discipline, are all blended together. Separate registers for baptisms, marriages, burials, money transactions, and minutes of discipline, have been regularly kept since 1835."

MONZIE.—"The parochial registers are comprised in eight folio volumes. The minutes of the kirk-session commence in 1691, and are brought down to the present period; but there is a chasm of five years between 1706 and 1711. The register of baptisms begins 24th November 1720, and is continued for six months. It is then discontinued till 17th May 1724, during which year and the whole of 1725, there are only three entries. No names occur in 1726, and in 1727 the register re-commences, and is continued down till 1836. The register of marriages or marriage contracts, or proclamations, commences in 1728, and is continued to the year 1831, without interruption.—There is no register of deaths."

MOULIN.—"The date of the earliest entry is 1707. They have been kept pretty regularly since.—A register of deaths has been kept in 1837 and 1838."

MUCKART.—"The parochial register from 1698 to 1743, containing an account of sessional discipline, proclamations, and collections, and distribution of the poor's fund, appears to have been remarkably well kept. From 1787, to the present day, there is also a full account of all sessional proceedings, but none from 1743 to 1787. There is a separate register of baptisms from 1698 to the present day, and another of proclamations from 1800. In addition to the above, there is a small volume of sessional proceedings, from 1678 to 1695, very difficult to deciphered."

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MUTHILL.—"In the kirk-session records, are contained lists of marriages, of births, and baptisms; an account of the distribution of the funds; and of the meetings and doings of the kirk-session. The earliest date of these records is February 2, 1676; and from that time to 1692, incidents are noticed with great regularity. Afterwards, the register is lost, until 1704, when Hally, the first Presbyterian minister, took charge of them, and kept them very carefully, until 1754. After Hally's time, they become irregular and confused, with the exception of the last few years."

PERTH.—"The date of the earliest entry in the session register is 1577. It consists of twenty-eight volumes. The date of the earliest entry in the register of baptisms is 1561. It consists of twenty-three volumes. The date of the earliest entry in the register of marriages is 1567. It consists of ten volumes.—Till the Revolution, the records were ill kept, several volumes were lost, and in those that are extant, there are not a few chasms and mutilations.—In 1807, the original parish was divided into four by the Court of Session. Since that time, the session of each parish has had its own register. The two for baptisms and marriages continue, as formerly, for the whole original parish. The two *quoad sacra* parishes lately erected, have, of course, each its own register for matters of discipline.—The register books of the presbytery of Perth are extant from the year 1610, and the register books of the synod of Perth and Stirling are extant from the year 1638."

PORT-OF-MENTEITH.—"Those of the parochial registers which are extant commence on the 14th September 1664."

RATTRAY.—"The parochial registers are of considerable antiquity. They commence about the Restoration in 1660, and, with a little interruption in the Revolution, 1688, have been filled up and preserved with tolerable care."

REDGORTON.—"The first entry of births in the parochial register is 18th November 1706. The record has been kept pretty regularly since that time, with the exception of the period from September 1709, till June 1715, which is blank, and the year 1743, in which there are only two entries."

RHYND.—No return.

SCONE.—"The registers are very defective. The earliest entry is dated 17th February 1622, and goes on to 7th November 1647. There is no register of any kind for the next twenty-

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seven years. From 1673 to 1688, there are some memoranda of births, &c.; but from 1688 to 1716, nothing whatever. From 1716 to 1740, there is a book containing some brief notices, and again, after a gap from 1740 to 1762, there are registers from 1762 to 1772. Minutes of session seem to have been kept from 1773 to 1787. Subsequently to that date they are very rare, the only registers then being those of births and marriages. Regular session records have been kept since 1832 to the present date (February 1843), together with registers of births and marriages, when parties apply to have the birth of their children registered, and pay the fee. Since 1838, a register of deaths has also been kept, stating the age and the disease that proved fatal, when known."

SAINT MADOES.—"The existing parochial records, which contain the transactions of the kirk-session and registers of baptisms and marriages, consist of six volumes.—The oldest of these commences with a minute of the 7th September 1591, and closes with one minute of the 30th of April 1615. The next existing volume commences with a minute of October 2, 1659, from which date to the present time, the session records are complete."

SAINT MARTINS AND CAMBUSMICHAEL.—"The registers commence in 1712. Till about 1820, matters of church discipline, cash transactions, births, and marriages, were all huddled into one book; but since that period, there has been a distinct and accurate register of each kept."

STROWAN AND MONIVAIRD.—*Vide* Monivaird.

TIBBERMORE.—"The registers do not extend farther back than 1724, nor do they appear to have been kept with great regularity for a considerable time after that period. For the last thirty years, however, there has been a regular entry made of most of the births, deaths, baptisms, and marriages, in the parish."

TRINITY-GASK.—"The session records of the parish contain accounts of baptisms, fines, collections, distributions, and discipline. They commence in 1641. The parochial registers are very full in some respects, and equally scanty in others. From 1770 to 1834, they have been very correctly and neatly kept."

TULLIALLAN.—No return.

TULLIBOLE AND FOSSOWAY.—*Vide* Fossoway.

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WEEM.—"The first entry in the parish registers was in 1692, but they do not appear to have been kept with much regularity till 1741, and at no period have the names of all the children been inserted."

WESTER FOWLIS.—*Vide* Fowlis (Wester).

XXVIII.—Renfrewshire,

[Anciently called Strathgryfe, extends from east to west thirty-one miles. Its greatest breadth is thirteen miles.]

CATHCART.—"There is no parochial register of an earlier date than the year 1707, although it appears from a minute of heritors about sixty years ago, when a session-clerk was chosen, that there was a more ancient record then in existence consigned to his charge, which has unfortunately been lost. The session minute-books which remain have been kept in extremely good order."

EAGLESHAM.—"There are, at present, nine volumes in possession of the parish schoolmaster, some of them not very regularly kept. The earliest date is 13th April 1651."

EASTWOOD OR POLLOCK.—"The earliest date of the parochial register of births is 1687; but it is defective,—as few dissenters are inclined to register. The earliest date of the register of proclamation of marriages is December 1693; but this is likewise defective, as the parties frequently neglect to return and get the marriage registered."

ERSKINE.—"The parish registers extend no farther back than the year 1703, and they are tolerably well kept, but those prior to this period are supposed to have been lost through decay."

GREENOCK.—"The records of the kirk-session do not extend farther back than 1694, and the registers of births and marriages commenced with April 1698. Until a very recent date,

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no register of burials has been kept. The kirk-session records have been shamefully mutilated. Happily, the oldest volume continues entire.—The registration of births is so imperfect, that it scarcely affords ground for any certain conclusion."

HOUSTON AND KILLALLAN.—"There are three volumes of parochial registers; the earliest entry is 25th October 1696. The two oldest volumes have not been regularly kept; they are not even authenticated by the subscription of the clerk; and there are considerable gaps in them. Indeed, there never was any parochial schoolmaster or regular session-clerk in the parish of Killallan while disjoined from Houston; and no register, except one gratuitously kept by the late Rev. Mr Monteath, previous to 1799. The date of births was entirely omitted, and baptisms only inserted;—such, perhaps, might be the common practice at that time. But, when this omission was discovered by the *present minister*, (Mr John Monteath,) *he considered it his duty to the public, to insist that births should be strictly and uniformly registered;* and he had some difficulty in persuading the session-clerk that this was absolutely necessary, for exactly ascertaining the ages of the parishioners. Since that year, the register has been regularly kept."

INCHINNAN.—"These, although consisting of several volumes, do not extend farther back than to the year 1722. The lists of births, baptisms, and marriages, are intermingled with accounts of the money collected at the church-door on Sundays, and statements of expenditure in behalf of the poor, together with minutes of the proceedings of the kirk-session in matters of discipline."

INNERKIP.—No return.

KILBARCHAN.—"The earliest date of the register of baptisms is 14th June 1700. There are two or three interruptions, one of these extending to twenty-six years, and ending 1740, from which date it has been regularly kept. It does not, however, exhibit a correct account even of the baptisms (births it ought to have been) in the parish, as scarcely any of the dissenters register; and a congregation of the Secession was formed soon after its origin, so early as 1739. Of the register of proclamations, the first date is July 18th, 1740. In it two blanks occur—one of four years.—From 1769, it is complete. The kirk-session minutes commence in 1742. There is a chasm from 1760 till 1769; since which date, no blank occurs."

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KILLALLAN AND HOUSTON.—*Vide* Houston.

KILMALCOLM.—"The registers do not extend far back; neither have they been regularly kept. The first entry is made in the year 1707. A parochial register is now regularly kept."

LOCHWINNOCH.—"There are three registers:—1st, A register of proclamations of marriage, which is complete from 1718 to the present time; 2d, A register of births and baptisms, which was begun in 1706 and continued to 1714. There is a blank till 1718, after which it is complete to the present time. 3d, The minutes of the kirk-session from September 1691 till 1700. The minutes are wanting from this date till August 1709, from which they extend to 1760, after which there is another chasm till 1777. From 1777 they are complete to the present day.—Neither the register of births nor deaths is quite accurate."

MEARNS.—"No regular register, except that of births, is kept in the parish."

NEILSTON.—"The oldest register is one of births and baptisms. It commences in 1689, and is continued on to 1735. It is in very bad condition, and two years are wholly wanting. The second register of births and baptisms begins 8th June 1784, and ends 14th March 1813. The fourth register of births and baptisms commences 21st March 1813, and is now being filled up. The first register of proclamation of banns begins 29th January 1737, and ends 10th December 1791. The second begins 5th January 1792, and ends 21st September 1833. The third begins 27th September 1833, and is being filled up. There is no register of deaths, on which any kind of reliance can be placed. There is great backwardness to registration here of any kind. *Regularity never will be attained, till a parliamentary enactment enforce it under penalties.*"

PAISLEY.—Previous to the year 1739, when the whole of the district was included in one parish, there was only one parochial register kept.—"From that register, we find the minutes of the kirk-session as far back as November 1699. In the first volume, which brings down the minutes to August 1706, a number of leaves appear to have been torn out. The next volume commences with the minutes of January 1710, and ends in February 1775. A volume appears to have been lost, containing the proceedings of the kirk-session between February 1775 and March 1792. With the exceptions noticed, the minutes are complete, from their commencement in 1699 to

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the present time. The registers in the burgh parishes have been regularly kept, from the opening of the different churches, each parish having a distinct register. The parish registers of births have been regularly kept from 1676 and proclamation of banns from 1670, to the present day. In the burgh, one register was kept from 1738 till 1781. At that period, when the burgh was divided into three distinct parishes, separate registers were ordered for each, and they have been kept with great accuracy from that date to the present time. Baptisms and marriages, as well as births and proclamations of banns, are registered.—No regular register of deaths has been kept."

POLLOCK OR EASTWOOD.—*Vide* Eastwood.

PORT-GLASGOW.—No return.

RENFREW.—"The registers are in all four,—the minutes of session, the registers of marriages and of births and baptisms, and the sessional cash-book. The minutes of session begin with an account of registers, and other documents belonging to the session, which appear to have been lost during the time of the latter persecution; or at least not to have been delivered to the session at the Revolution settlement.—From 1690 to 1696, the minutes are complete; but are wanting from the latter date on to 1731. From this, they are regularly kept down to the present time. They extend in all to five volumes. The registers of births, baptisms and marriages, are kept in the same book, though in separate columns or pages. They begin with memoranda from 1673, but form a regular record from 1692 downwards, and are contained in four volumes. The cash transactions of the session are recorded from 1732."

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XXXI.—Ross and Cromartyshire.

[This large county comprises the districts of Easter and Wester Ross, Ardmeanach, or the Black Isle, and the Island of Lewis. It extends from east to west sixty-seven miles, and from north to south fifty-eight miles.]

ALNESS.—No return.—The clergyman informs me that—"the records of births, marriages and deaths, commence October 7, 1783. There was a register prior to that date, but it was taken away nearly a century ago, by some one or other, and lost. The register of deaths terminated at the end of 1790, and it was never kept after.—They have been kept invariably by the parish schoolmasters, and the custom is to apply to him for registration. The register is in his possession, as has been the case from time immemorial.—From the commencement in 1783, to the present date, there are no blanks. The marriages, I presume, have been regularly registered, but since 1843, very few of the Free Church members register the births of their children, but of course the marriages are registered as before."

APPLECROSS.—"There are some registers of baptisms and marriages, commencing in the year 1779, but they have not been regularly kept."

AVOCH.—"There is a parochial register regularly kept. The earliest entry in the oldest register of this parish, which was by no means regularly kept, is dated 1727."

BARVAS,—LEWIS.—*Vide* Lewis.

CONTIN.—"With the exception of an old mutilated fragment, and one very imperfect register, there is no public record of any kind, of a remoter date than 1805. Marriages and births were not regularly entered until 1826, but since then a record of these has been kept in due form.—The number of deaths cannot be ascertained, for want of a register."

CROMARTY.—No return.—The session-clerk informs me that—

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"the registers of births (only baptisms), marriages, and deaths (such only as used the parish mortcloths), began to be kept here in 1698. They have, in general, been well kept. There are several blanks arising from leaves torn out and lost."

CULLICUDDEN AND KIRKMICHAEL.—*Vide* Kirkmichael.

DINGWALL.—"There is no register of deaths kept in the parish."

EASTER KILMUIR.—*Vide* Kilmuir (Easter).

EASTER LOGIE.—*Vide* Logie (Easter).

EDDERTOUN.—"The register of births, baptisms, and marriages, commences 25th July 1799, and has been regularly kept since that period, previous to which nothing of the kind existed. It is contained in one volume. The session records only began to be kept by the late incumbent, the first entry being dated 26th September 1821. They consist of minutes of the proceedings of the kirk-session, poor's funds, &c. There is no register of deaths kept."

FEARN.—"There is but one parochial register, that of baptisms and marriages. It begins in 1749. The entries have been very irregularly made down till the year 1800."

FODDERTY.—No return.

GAIRLOCH.—"There were no registers kept in the parish previous to the year 1802; since that period they have been regularly kept."

GLENSHIEL.—"There is no register kept of deaths."

KILLEARNAN.—"The register of this parish has been regularly kept from the year 1744."

KILMUIR (EASTER).—"The register of births commences in 1738, and there are no sessional records of an older date than 1771."

KILMUIR (WESTER) AND SUDDY.—No return.

KILTEARN.—No return.—The clergyman informs me that—"the oldest extant register of births commences on the 25th June 1744, during the incumbency of Rev. Andrew Robertson. Under him, and after his death, up to 1770, it appears to have been kept with much regularity. From 1770 to 1783, the same marks of regularity are not so apparent. No material blanks, however, occur in it. From the last mentioned year downwards, it is full and distinct.—The register of marriages commences 13th November 1744, which, down to the present time, seems to have been kept with tolerable accuracy. There is no register of deaths."

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KINCARDINE.—"The register of baptisms and marriages commences about forty-three years ago, the date of the earliest entry being August 21, 1797, since which period it has been regularly kept. It consists of two volumes: the dates of births have not been kept in the first, but commence with the second volume, in May 1804. The minutes of the kirk-session of Kincardine, commence on the 21st of May 1804, previous to which no session records exist. But they have been very irregularly kept ever since then, entries (anything but voluminous) being made only occasionally, and at intervals of sometimes two and three years. They have been regularly kept only since 1821. There is no register of deaths or burials."

KINTAIL.—"The parish registers are all of modern date. The earliest entry is in 1787. They are by no means voluminous, and are now regularly kept."

KIRKMICHAEL AND CULLICUDDEN.—"The register of births and marriages has been regularly kept from the year 1748. A register previous to that period evidently did exist, but only a few leaves of it remain. Its contents were carefully transcribed into the present register. The session records have been duly kept only since 1822. Previously, and for the space of forty-seven years, there was neither a regularly constituted session, nor, of course, any records whatever,—the books containing the minutes of session before that period having been burned."

LEWIS,—BARVAS.—"The only register extant in this parish, dates its earliest entry from the year 1810;—since which time, baptisms, marriages, and distributions of poor funds, have been regularly registered."

LEWIS,—STORNOWAY.—"The earliest entry in the parochial register is dated 1780: the record was discontinued in 1791. Since 1825, the registers have been regularly kept, and weekly entries are made by the session-clerk."

LOCHALSH.—"A register of births and marriages has been kept in the parish since the year 1820."

LOCHBROOM.—"There are no registers within the parish further back than the year 1808."

LOCHCARRON.—"Baptisms and marriages have been regularly registered since 1819. The register kept before that time was accidentally burnt.—No register of deaths."

LOCHS.—"No register was kept in this parish at any time, as far as known, until July 1831, when the present incumbent became parish minister of Lochs."

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LOGIE (EASTER).—"There is a parish register of marriages and baptisms kept regularly by the session-clerk."

LOGIE (WESTER) AND URQUHART.—*Vide* Urquhart.

NIGG.—"The session records of the parish commence on 17th December 1705. They have not, in general, been well kept, and some of them were accidentally burnt, many years ago. They consist of three volumes. There were sessional records of an older date, but they have been lost."

ROSEMARKIE.—"From the loss of some of the old registers, by accident or carelessness, and the negligence of the people in former times, in registering the births of their children, these records do not extend far back, and are somewhat incomplete, previous to the year 1815. Since then, the session records of births, marriages, deaths, and poor's funds, have been regularly kept."

ROSSKEEN.—"The registers of births and marriages both commence in 1781, and have been regularly kept."

STORNOWAY,—LEWIS.—*Vide* Lewis.

SUDDY AND WESTER KILMUIR.—*Vide* Kilmuir (Wester).

TAIN.—"There are no trustworthy parochial registers now extant, of a date beyond 1765; at which period it is recorded *that general discontent had been raised by the total want of any registration for nine years before;* since that time (except that there is no record of deaths) they have been tolerably well kept. The burgh records commence in 1734."

TARBAT.—"The only parochial registers extant are, a book in which the minutes of the kirk-session are kept, and another in which births and marriages are recorded. The earliest entry in the first is in the year 1750, and in the second, 1801. These books have been regularly kept."

UIG.—"Registers have been kept in this parish only since the year 1826. There are registers of marriages and births."

URQUHART AND LOGIE (WESTER).—"The oldest register now extant is dated in 1715. One commencing in 1709 is said to have existed, if so, it must have been lost. For the last thirty or forty years the entries seem to have been made very irregularly, there being intervals of years, during which neither baptism nor marriage was inserted; and in the case of baptisms, when recorded, the name of the father alone was registered. Subsequently, however, more attention was paid to this important matter; and for a considerable number of years

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back, the registers have been kept with great care, baptisms and marriages being punctually entered. Of deaths no record is kept,—*a circumstance which requires reform.*"

URRAY.—"There is a register of births and marriages,—the former commencing with the year 1756, and the latter with the year 1815. The register of births previous to the year 1820 was very irregularly kept, a great many names having been left out, and those in many cases entered improperly. The record was not even signed by the session-clerk."

WESTER KILMUIR.—*Vide* Kilmuir (Wester).

WESTER LOGIE AND URQUHART.—*Vide* Urquhart.

XXX.—Roxburghshire.

[This county, comprising the districts of Teviotdale and Liddesdale, extends from east to west thirty-eight miles, and from north to south twenty-eight miles.]

ANCRUM.—No return.—The session-clerk informs me that—"Registers of births and proclamations, since 1703, down to this date, have been regularly entered. Not nearly all the births and baptisms have been registered, but each proclamation of banns is regularly entered. In very few instances is the date of the marriage registered; but there is no registration of deaths; only of late the registration of births and baptisms has not been so regularly attended to as in former years, either by churchmen or dissenters. Before 1703, this parish had also a parochial register, which is understood to be *in retentis* by some of the church courts. Since the union of Longnewton parish to Ancrum, there are no other records presently available to the parish, than those commencing at 1703."

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ASHKIRK.—"There are some very old and curious entries in the registers of this parish, but unfortunately the books are far from being entire."

BEDRULE.—"The session records of this parish go back as far as about 1660; but the precise date cannot be ascertained, as the leaves at the beginning have been mutilated. The registration of births has been very irregularly kept for many years past."

BOWDEN.—"A parochial register of births and marriages, begun in the year 1697, is kept by the schoolmaster, as session-clerk; but, is not so complete as could be wished, owing to the carelessness of parents in getting the births of their children entered."

CASTLETOWN.—No return.

CAVERS.—"These have hitherto been very imperfectly kept, and are consequently very defective.

CRAILING.—"The parish registers do not reach farther back than the beginning of last century."

ECKFORD.—"Of the parochial registers there are five volumes, and the date of the earliest entry is 27th May 1694. At present, they are very carefully kept; but as the dissenters do not regularly engross their children's into the record, the list of baptisms cannot be so complete as it would otherwise be."

EDNAM.—"February 6, 1668, is the date of the earliest insertion in the register of baptisms. In this register there is one considerable blank, owing probably, to the loss of one of the books."

HAWICK.—"The register of births commences in 1634, and is continued to the present time, with the exception of two intervals, the one occurring between 1657 and 1669, and the other between 1750 and 1756. The register of marriages is defective in several places, but is complete from 1699 to 1730, from 1751 to 1800, and from 1834 to the present time. The register of deaths was begun in 1755, and has been regularly kept ever since. The register of money transactions commences in 1724, and has been carried down without interruption till now. The records of the kirk-session are very defective. From 1700 to 1704, from 1751 to 1768, and from 1786 to 1798, the entries have been made with considerable regularity, but with these exceptions, and a few isolated fragments, there has been no continuous record till recently."

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HOBKIRK.—No return.—The clergyman writes to me:—"Our register of births, or rather baptisms, commences upwards of 120 years back; and that of proclamations about one-fourth of that time. We have no register of deaths, but the beadle keeps one of burials, which, however, is liable to be interrupted at every change of the official. Our present system for noting baptisms and proclamations is very accurate, and needs only to be rendered *imperative* to be perfect."

HOUNAM.—"The earliest date of the parish or sessional records, comprising entries of the proclamations of the banns of marriage, baptisms, discipline, division of poor's money, and the proceedings of the kirk-session, is 1690. The records from this date to the year 1728, are very imperfect. Since the latter period, they have been better attended to, and are in general pretty accurately kept. From 1772 to November 1775, there is an entire blank in the minutes of session. Since 1775, they have been kept with considerable care, and the entries are regular as far as relates to the minutes. No accurate account can be given of deaths and burials, from the imperfection of the registers; and even the births and baptisms are not regularly recorded."

HUME AND STITCHELL.—*Vide* Stitchell.

JEDBURGH.—"The date of the earliest entry is February 14, 1639. The registers are not voluminous, and it is to be regretted that they have been somewhat carelessly kept."

KELSO.—"The records consist of the minutes of kirk-session, the register of births and baptisms, and the register of proclamations and marriages. The session records, in ten volumes folio and quarto, go back as far as the beginning of the year 1622, and come down, with some interruptions, to the present time. These interruptions are from March 1661 to June 1668; from August 1689 to May 1692; and from September 1749 to August 1800,—though this last blank is in a good measure supplied by a set of duplicate minutes,—apparently the original drafts,—which extend, with but few intermissions, from 1697 to 1830. The register of baptisms, in eleven volumes, begins at 1597; but it has also many blanks, and is, especially of late years, far from being a complete list of the births in the parish. The register of marriages commences likewise from 1597, and is generally kept in the same volume with that of births and baptisms.

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KIRKTOUN.—No return.—"The clergyman writes to me:—"That the registration of births commences at 1742. The register is very imperfect—the session-clerk having entered birth or baptism of those children only whose parents chose to register, and these apparently are but a small proportion; and of marriages and deaths, there is only an occasional entry. *I have frequently told many of the parishioners the propriety of registering, as it might become very useful at some future period; and that several extracts had been requested, which did, I believe, do so.*"

LESSUDDEN OR SAINT BOSWELLS—*Vide* Saint Boswells.

LILLIESLEAF.—No return.

LINTON.—"The registers of births have been pretty regularly kept; and the date of the earliest entry is 1732."

MAKERSTOUN.—"These extend from 1692, with little interruption to the present time."

MAXTON.—"There is a 'session-record' in existence, and a 'register of births, marriages, and deaths;' both of which begin more than a hundred years back, but they have been very irregularly kept. The latter is necessarily very imperfect, in consequence of Seceders and others declining to register."

MELROSE.—"The parochial registers begin in 1630, and are continued down to the present day, with a single break of four years between 1686–90.—Every marriage is recorded,—the parties being anxious, from a regard to decorum, to pay a scrupulous attention to all observances; but, in the registration of the births and deaths, there is great irregularity."

MINTO.—"The date of the earliest entry in the parochial register is 1703. During last century, entries were made with more regularity than has since been observed. No register is kept of deaths. Marriages, as ascertained from the proclamations, may be stated at five yearly."

MOREBATTLE AND MOW.—"The session records commence in 1726. There is a gap from 1738 to 1771, and again from 1777 to 1803, from which date they have been regularly kept. The register of births and baptisms commences also in 1726. In it, too, a blank occurs, from 1739 to 1760. After this, it continues, without farther interruption, to the present time. No registers are kept of marriages, and deaths, or funerals. A small sum is paid to the session funds by parties giving in their names for the publication of banns. The entries of these sums in the session accounts is a sort of register of proclama-

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tions, the entries of the mortcloth dues form a similar register of funerals."

MOW AND MOREBATTLE.—*Vide* Morebattle.

OXNAM.—"It appears that the earliest insertion in the parochial register was in 1700, and that entries were regularly made during the subsequent ten years; but that, since that period, it has been less accurately kept."

ROBERTON.—"There are some registers which go back as far as the year 1680, but they are neither voluminous nor regularly kept. They have also suffered much from decay and from damp. One small record of the births and marriages of Hassendean parish is still preserved."

ROXBURGH.—"There are three volumes of parochial registers belonging to the parish. The earliest entry is of date 1624, and the whole have been kept up to this time with more or less accuracy."

SAINT BOSWELL'S OR LESSUDDEN.—"The earliest parochial register commences in 1691; but the registers are neither voluminous nor regularly kept."

SMALHOLM.—"The earliest date is 1642. They have been regularly kept, and are in a pretty good state of preservation."

SOUTHDEAN.—No return.—The session-clerk informs me, that—"The records of births, deaths, and marriages, in this parish commence in January 1739. But it is cause of regret, that they are far from complete, owing to the carelessness of parents in getting the births of their children registered. The register of deaths is also incomplete. *Some amendment is much required.* The register of marriages is in a more satisfactory state. The proclamation of banns for all parties, whether Church adherents or dissenters, being made by the session-clerk, affords an opportunity of registration as soon as the marriage takes place. In other respects, the records are pretty well kept."

SPROUSTON.—"The oldest session records now extant bear date from 1650 till 1656, and seem to have been pretty fully and regularly kept; but they are now in a very imperfect and decayed state. The records subsequent to that period, with the exception of one interval between 1656 and 1691, are almost entire."

STITCHELL AND HUME.—"Registers have been kept for both parishes since the year 1640."

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WILTON.—"The session records commence in 1694. They are voluminous and well kept. The minute-book of the heritors, also a well-kept record, extends from 1723 to the present time, and contains an account of transactions relating to the poor and the economics of the parish. The only remaining register is that of births, but it exhibits nothing like a punctual or regular registration, parents often disregarding every admonition to record the nativity of their children. There is in this parish no register of deaths, and nothing in the shape of a record of marriages, excepting only a record of the names of those who have had proclamations of banns in the church.—*The expense of registration is so trifling, and the benefit which results from it is often so great, that it is surprising to find such universal negligence in this matter. No doubt there are statutes in force to compel this observance; but it is an invidious task, and not worth the session-clerk's while to enforce them; and, unless the power of registration be lodged elsewhere, it is much to be feared that the present irregular practice will not soon be corrected.*"

YETHOLM.—"The earliest parochial registers extant are from 1690, and from that period to the present they have been kept with considerable regularity. There is little doubt but earlier registers did exist, and there is a report that they were destroyed, accidentally, by the family of one of the former ministers of the parish. They consist of three large folio volumes completed, and a fourth is now adding to their number.—The registration of baptisms has been much neglected, and no registry of deaths kept at all."

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XXXI.—Selkirkshire.

[This county, anciently called Ettrick Forest, extends from north to south twenty-eight miles, and from east to west eighteen miles.]

ETTRICK.—"The parish register of Ettrick commences in 1693. The registration of baptisms is regularly kept, from 1693 to 1711. But there is a blank between 1711 and 1725, the baptisms of 1725 occurring immediately after the baptisms of 1711 in the same volume. *This may be one reason why there has been in a certain quarter, and still is, and may yet be, much fruitless litigation.*"

GALASHIELS.—"The register of births from 1672 to 1690 is extant. But from this latter date till 1714, there is a blank in all the parish records. From 1714 till the present time, the register of births has been kept regularly; but none of burials or marriages since 1776, before which time, during a period of thirty years, these were recorded but imperfectly."

SELKIRK.—"The parochial registers, namely, those of births and marriages, are kept with great regularity by the session-clerk. They consist of several folio volumes, the earliest date of which is 1641. Unluckily, however, the register of births is not so complete as could be wished, from the circumstance that people belonging to the Secession Church, who are here pretty numerous, have a seeming reluctance to enter the births of their children, and, consequently, the enrolments are mostly made by parents in union with the Establishment. It may be here noticed, that there is also a register of deaths, not kept by the session-clerk, but by an individual merely for his own amusement. It commences in 1742, and has been continued down to the present time."

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YARROW.—"A large proportion of the old parochial registers was burnt about seventy years ago, along with the manse. In those extant, the date of the earliest entry is 1691; but from the beginning till nearly the middle of last century, with the exception of a few years between, there is a perfect blank. Since 1741, however, the registers have been more regularly and carefully kept."

XXXII.—Shetland.

[The Shetland Islands are above one hundred in number, of which thirty-two only are inhabited.]

AITHSTING AND SANDSTING.—*Vide* Sandsting.

BRESSAY, BURRA, AND QUARFF.—No return.

BURRA, QUARFF, AND BRESSAY.—*Vide* Bressay.

DELTING.—"There is a register of births and marriages, and a record of the acts of the kirk-session. The latter commences in 1709, and was regularly kept till 1719,—from which time till 1751 there is a blank. From 1751, this record was again regularly kept till 1781. Since 1821, the entries have been quite regular. The register of marriages and births commences in 1751, but was not properly kept till within the last twenty years."

DUNROSSNESS.—"Parochial registers are kept of the baptisms and marriages of persons connected with the Established Church; but dissenters do not register their baptisms, and only their marriages are proclaimed in the Established Church."

FETLAR AND NORTH YELL.—"No parochial register is to be found of older date than 1754. It commences on the 12th June of that year, and was irregularly kept till 1803, when a

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new book was begun, in which the births and marriages are pretty regularly entered; but there are no entries of deaths."

LERWICK.—"There are three volumes of parochial registers in the possession of the session-clerk. The first begins in the year 1704, and ends in 1750. The births and marriages are both recorded in this book; but, owing to the originally imperfect binding of the volume, it is now almost in fragments, and the births for several years at the commencement have been either not recorded, or more probably the record has been lost. The second volume commences in the year 1751, and seems to have terminated in the year 1777; but the latter year has been torn away. It appears to have been kept in a very regular and accurate manner, and is in very good preservation. Births, marriages, and deaths, are all recorded. The third volume commences in the year 1778, and is that still in use, being only about half exhausted. It contains a register of births and marriages—the latter probably complete, but the former, from its being optional with dissenters to register, has probably been much neglected. The people of all sects are now, however, it is believed, alive to the importance of registration. This volume contains no register of deaths till the year 1817; and, from the want of some imperative regulation for ascertaining and communicating the facts, they have necessarily been entered in a very irregular manner. The session-clerk, apart from his own observation, is almost entirely indebted to the sexton for his information respecting these."

MID AND SOUTH YELL.—*Vide* Yell (Mid).

NESTING.—"There are registers of births and marriages, but not of deaths. These registers were very irregularly kept till 1827; and the dissenters do not register, except those who have been married and baptised by the parochial minister."

NORTHMAVING.—"The parochial registers, for a few years, have been kept well and accurately; but the old records are far from being perfect or voluminous, and are not of a very early date. In the year 1765, new session-books were obtained, and ever since they have been more or less regularly kept, according to the qualifications and ability of the session-clerk.—No register of deaths has ever been kept."

NORTH YELL AND FETLAR.—*Vide* Fetlar.

QUARFF, BURRA, AND BRESSAY.—*Vide* Bressay.

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SANDSTING AND AITHSTING.—"The acts or minutes of session commence in 1733, and are contained in one volume. They appear to have been regularly kept from that period, till about 1765; but between the death or demission of one minister and the admission of another, little care seems to have been taken of the register; so that now, it is in a very shattered and imperfect state."

SOUTH AND MID YELL.—*Vide* Yell (Mid).

TINGWALL, WHITENESS, AND WEESDALE.—No return.

UNST.—"The parochial registers are of very modern date. The first entry is made in October 1776. No doubt, records must have existed at a much more remote period; but after the most diligent inquiry, not the least vestige of them can now be traced."

WALLS.—No return.

WEESDALE, WHITENESS, AND TINGWALL.—*Vide* Tingwall.

WHITENESS, WEESDALE, AND TINGWALL.—*Vide* Tingwall.

YELL, (MID AND SOUTH).—"The parochial registers extend no farther back than to the beginning of the eighteenth century, and are kept with tolerable accuracy."

YELL (NORTH) AND FETLAR.—*Vide* Fetlar.

XXXIII.—Stirlingshire.

[The greatest length of this county is forty-five miles; its extreme breadth, eighteen miles.]

AIRTH.—"There is a register of births, deaths, and marriages, from 16th September 1660, to 9th November 1699. From this date there is none till 15th February 1670, when it again commences, and is carried on to 4th September 1720, when there is another blank down to 4th July 1732; from which period it is continued with tolerable accuracy, down to the present."

ALVA.—No return.

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BALDERNOCK.—"The records of session bear date 1690. They have been very irregularly kept."

BALFRON.—"The first date of the parochial register is 1691, when the first proclamation of banns in order to marriage is inserted. The first registration of baptisms is in 1687. From that time till the present, the register of baptisms has been very irregularly kept. From the year 1825 downwards to the present year, with a few exceptions, the records of session have been regularly kept."

BOTHKENNAR.—No return.—The clergyman informs me—"that the register of births commences 16th June 1723; deaths, 27th October 1724; marriages, 22d June 1728. Births and proclamations have been regularly kept; the deaths irregularly, and few or none entered since 1794."

BUCHANAN.—"There is a register kept of baptisms, marriages, and deaths, but the first is incorrect, as many parents omit to register their children, and the omission is calculated at one-sixth of the whole number."

CAMPSIE.—"The registers are very meagre. One volume, commencing 29th October 1689, records the proceedings of the kirk-session down to June 6, 1717. Another volume commences May 27, 1787, and is continued with great irregularity till November 1810. The minutes of the kirk-session are continued from the date last mentioned to the present time. The register of baptisms extends from the year 1696 downwards; that of deaths appears not to have been kept previously to 1790."

DENNY.—"The registers consist of nine volumes. The births and marriages commence about 1679; but both the volumes are in a dilapidated state. They are merely a list of names, having no speciality connected with them but the date. The minutes of session commence in 1742. There are great gaps in them, not from decay, but from no minutes, so far as appears, having ever existed. Since the commencement of the present century, the session-records exhibit all the meetings and the business done, and are subscribed by the moderator. The births and marriages are also entered in properly bound volumes. It is to be regretted, however, that there are some who do not record the baptisms or births of their children. *Not a year passes in which parties do not suffer from this neglect.*"

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DRYMEN.—"There are five volumes of session records, the two oldest of which are now in a very decayed and imperfect condition. The earliest date is 1676. The record from 1677 to 1721 is wanting. After that period, with the exception of a gap from 1740 to 1743, they seem fully and accurately kept. The earliest date of the minutes of session is 1723. The oldest date in the church-yard is 1618. The registration of births is much neglected, especially by dissenters. No regular record of the deaths has been kept."

DUNIPACE.—No return.—In consequence of my application, the session-clerk writes to the clergyman as follows:—"The reason why I did not take particular notice of the parish registers in the statistics of this parish was, that these books were not in my custody at that time, nor till 1843, when I was appointed session-clerk. One of the elders, a labouring man, had been session-clerk from 1809 till that said year.—The record of births begins in 1708, and the record of marriages in 1709. I have not observed any pages awanting in these records. Except in some very particular cases, latterly, few marriages are recorded, but the list of proclamations seems to be complete. The deaths of a very few distinguished individuals are irregularly noticed in these books. These records are sometimes tolerably well kept, but at other times very indifferently, especially when not kept by the parochial schoolmaster. No schoolmaster, as I stated above, was session-clerk from 1809 till 1843. I am the third schoolmaster of this parish since that period. Since these registers came under my care, I have endeavoured to keep a record of marriages, but in a few cases I could not get information of the *fact*, and though I asked the parties interested to let me know the date of their marriage, they very often neglected to do so."

FALKIRK.—"The date of the earliest entry is 4th January 1594. They are voluminous, and have been regularly kept until the present time."

FINTRY.—"Parochial registers belonging to the session have been kept from a remote date. The oldest is dated 1632. Some of them have fallen into careless hands, and been much injured; some altogether lost. Marriages and baptisms have been registered for upwards of a century. A registry of deaths has been kept only since 1826."

GARGUNNOCK.—"The earliest entry in the registers is dated 1615.

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The registers are voluminous, and, upon the whole, they have been regularly kept; but, owing to accident or carelessness, the registers of the last forty years of the seventeenth century have been lost. Since that time, many marriages, births, baptisms, and burials have been omitted to be recorded; *and in consequence, several valuable legacies have been lost to the nearest heir.*"

KILLEARN.—"The register of baptisms and deaths is not correct; that of marriages only can be depended on."

KILSYTH.—No return.

KIPPEN.—"There are no records extant previous to 1700. From that date to 1745, the parochial registers have been kept with considerable accuracy. From 1745 to 1757, the register of marriages has been neglected; and from that period also, many parents, connected with the Secession Church, have omitted the registration of the names of their children. No proper register of deaths is kept in the parish."

LARBERT.—"The register has been regularly kept since the year 1699; but although it is continuous, it is neither voluminous nor remarkable for its regularity."

LOGIE.—No return.—But the clergyman informs me that—"the session records commence in February 1660, and run up in an unbroken chain to the present year. They are tolerably well arranged. The earliest record is one vol. folio, from 1660 to August 18th, 1710, including a subjoined register of baptisms and marriages from 1710 to April 13, 1740. The register of deaths and burials begins 1780, and is mixed up with the baptisms and marriages till 1817. Separate registers are kept for the baptisms, marriages, and deaths, and from 1817 to the present year, are most unexceptionable. There has been no register of deaths or burials kept in this parish, except in the years 1761 and 1763. Baptisms have been recorded on application (which, however, has been too much neglected,) since February 12, 1688; and the record of proclamation of banns opens on January 17th of the same year. The session records have been regularly kept since 15th August 1688."

MUIRAVONSIDE.—No return.

POLMONT.—"There are registers of births and of proclamations, both of which commence at the origin of the parish. There is also a register of funerals, which extends back for fifty

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years.—Not much reliance of any practical purpose is to be placed on the registers of births and of marriages."

SAINT NINIANS.—"The oldest parochial register is that of births and baptisms, commencing at 1643, and continued downwards with a blank betwixt 1711 and 1717. Proclamation of banns, at 1688, has two blanks, viz., from 1719 to 1725, and from 1754 to 1774. The session records, down to 1838, are contained in ten volumes folio. The first volume now in existence, commences November 1653, but there is part of a minute, dated 1608, and two extracts from a former volume, 1631, and 1639, are entered anew under 1699.—The record of births is very imperfect, and none of deaths is kept."

SLAMANAN.—"The oldest register of kirk-session commences 1681. There are several loose papers, apparently communion-rolls, bearing date 1635."

STIRLING.—"The whole number of volumes is twenty-four; of which eight are session-records, and sixteen registers of proclamations, baptisms, &c. &c. The date of the earliest entry in the session records, is November 7, 1597. The earliest volume of the register of proclamations, baptisms, and marriages, commences in 1585. The register of burials begins in 1727. Of the above mentioned volumes, three of session records, embracing the period from November 7, 1597, to December 3, 1649, and one of proclamations, &c., from 1585 to 1594, are in the register-house in Edinburgh.—The presbytery of Stirling's records commence with the erection of the presbytery, August 8, 1581; and those of the synod of Perth and Stirling in 1638."

STRATHBLANE.—"In consequence of the recommendation of the General Assembly, 1816, correct registers have been kept, since that time, of marriages and births. There is no register of deaths, and, prior to 1816, the registers of marriages and births were exceedingly irregular. The first entry in the register of baptisms is dated April 1685. Registers had been kept long before that period, but perished through the negligence of those to whose care they had been entrusted."

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XXXIV.—Sutherlandshire.

[This extensive county comprehends the districts of Sutherland, Strathnaver, Assynt, Edderachillis and Durness. It extends from east to west sixty-two miles, and from north to south forty-nine miles.]

ASSYNT.—"There is no register of date previous to 1798. Since that period, births and marriages have been recorded with tolerable regularity, but there is no register of deaths."

CLYNE.—"There is no trace of any parochial register being kept farther back than the year 1706, and even for some time thereafter the strictest accuracy has not been observed."

CRIECH.—No return.

DORNOCH.—"A register of baptisms has been kept, though sometimes not very regularly, since 13th August 1730; and a register of marriages, since 15th August 1734. These registers have been always under the charge of the parochial schoolmaster for the time being, who acts as clerk to the kirk-session, and receives a small fee for every act of registration. When the school became vacant, the registration was much neglected. Since the year 1817, however, both registers have been kept correctly. *Great inconvenience, and even loss to individuals, having been experienced from the want of a register of deaths, to which reference could be made,*—a register of that description has been kept by the minister of the parish since January 1826, which, *if continued by his successors, may prove useful to succeeding generations.*"

DURNESS.—"The earliest date of the parochial register is 4th November 1764. It does not contain any register of deaths."

EDDERACHILLIS.—"There are no traces of a parochial record having been kept prior to 1819. From that period, births and marriages have been carefully recorded."

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FARR.—"The only parochial registers extant are a book in which the minutes of the kirk-session are kept; and another, in which births and marriages are recorded. The earliest entry in the first is in the year 1754; and in the second, in the year 1800."

GOLSPIE.—"The earliest entry in the parochial register here is 29th December 1739. The register is at present regularly and carefully kept."

KILDONAN.—No return.

LAIRG.—"There is a parochial register regularly kept, but the earliest entry is dated only in 1768."

LOTH.—"There is no register of births and marriages for this parish, of any earlier date than the close of the last century: older registers may have existed, and this is a defect common to almost all the neighbouring parishes, *which has been often attended with the most vexatious and injurious consequences to persons in humble life, who required to establish their propinquity to deceased and remote relatives. Older registers may have existed; but as there was no legal provision for the care and preservation of such records, the system under which they were entrusted to the parish schoolmasters, afforded little or no security for their preservation. All parish registers are now under better and safer management than formerly; but many persons who have directed their attention to the matter, are convinced, that, as national records, the parish registers of Scotland admit of being placed under more strict control, and more certain protection, than have yet been devised for insuring their full public benefits.*"

ROGART.—No return.—The clergyman informs me that—"the date of the records of births and marriages in this parish commences June 16th, 1796. There has been no record kept for deaths. The books seem to have been well kept, and the entries regularly made. There does not appear to be a single blank down to 1843,—since, there are very few entries of births."

TONGUE.—"There was no register kept previous to the year 1775. From that period till 1797, there was a record of births and marriages regularly made up; but the person who was session-clerk at that time became deranged, which was never suspected, till it was incontestibly proved, by his being found one morning busily employed in the churchyard distributing papers on the grave-stones, with the sanguine hope of raising an army

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from the dead. On examination, these papers were discovered to be the parish register, so torn as to be completely useless. From 1797, marriages and births were registered, but not in a permanent form, and many of the loose sheets have been lost through the carelessness of clerks. However, since 1816, a correct register has been regularly kept."

XXXV.—Wigtonshire.

[This county comprises the Western District of the ancient province of Galloway. It extends from east to west thirty-two miles, and from north to south twenty-nine miles.]

GLASSERTON.—No return.

INCH.—"No register of deaths has been kept in the parish."

KIRKCOLM.—"No parochial register has been preserved here of an earlier date than 1775. In that year a register of births and baptisms, but with many omissions, commenced; a register of proclamations commenced in 1791, and soon after, a record of the ordinary business of the kirk-session; a register of burials commenced in 1706. Since the beginning of the year 1822, the births and proclamations, except in the case of dissenters, have been pretty regularly recorded. Burials are entered as given in by the kirk-officer to the session-clerk: and this register, as kept at present, appears to be nearly correct."

KIRKINNER.—"The earliest birth recorded in the parochial register is August 27, 1694. At times the register seems to have been very ill kept, as in some years there are very few names inserted. The marriage earliest recorded is November 22, 1694. This record continues to July 13, 1742; but there seems to have been none kept from that date till the year 1779.—There is no register of deaths kept in the parish."

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KIRKMAIDEN.—"The earliest of the session records commences in 1699. From 1716 to the present time, the session records, and registers of births, deaths and marriages, are continuous They are, in some instances, written by the minister, but generally by the session-clerk."

KIRKOWAN.—"The session-books were destroyed by fire about fifty years ago. Hence the comparatively recent date of the commencement of those now existing. Births, marriages, and a list of communicants are regularly kept."

LESWALT.—No return.

LUCE (OLD).—"A session record has been kept in this parish since the year 1731, containing a registration of births, marriages, &c., from that time till the present."

LUCE (NEW).—"The oldest parish register is dated 1695. Until about twenty-five years ago they were not regularly kept."

MOCHRUM.—"In the register of this parish, births, marriages, and matters of church discipline are recorded; but until 1822, there were no parochial registers regularly kept."

NEW LUCE.—*Vidé* Luce (New).

OLD LUCE.—*Vide* Luce (Old).

PENNINGHAME.—"Parochial registers of births, baptisms, and proclamations for marriages, with the exception of a short period in last century, have been kept with considerable regularity. The oldest entry is 17th October 1696.—There is no record of deaths."

PORTPATRICK.—"The only parochial registers are those kept by the session-clerk, in which, however, there are several minutes of the meetings of heritors and kirk-session. Besides the volume now in use, the records of the kirk-session consist of four volumes; the first, extending from 7th May 1727 to 23d November 1766, has been regularly kept: 341 small quarto pages are devoted to the minutes of kirk-session, and 88 to the registry of marriages and births.—The second volume (a folio) consists of 270 pages, of which 56 are occupied with minutes of kirk-session, extending from 31st October 1773 to 20th November 1791. The remainder of the volume is occupied with the registrations of marriages, births, and a few burials. The third volume (a folio) has 52 pages near the middle devoted to minutes of kirk-session, from 29th October 1797 to 10th May 1818. The remainder of it is occupied with registry of marriages, births, and the sale of burying-

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ground in the churchyard. The fourth volume (a folio) has 29 pages onward in the volume devoted to minutes of kirk-session, and of heritors and kirk-session, from 8th November 1818 to 28th April 1833. The remaining pages are devoted to the registry of marriages and births, and are at present in use only for this purpose.—No record of deaths."

SORBIE.—"The parochial registers are not voluminous. The date of their earliest entry is 1700. They were properly attended to some time at first, but afterwards not so carefully attended. Of late, however, they have been regularly kept."

STONYKIRK.—"There is a register of baptisms and marriages kept, which contains also the accounts of disbursements and the minutes of the session. There is no register of deaths; and the births are by no means regularly entered."

STRANRAER.—"A register of births and baptisms, but none of deaths kept in the parish."

WHITHORN.—"The earliest parochial register, containing births, baptisms, marriages, poor-roll, and funds, goes no farther back than 1796. The register of births and baptisms has been very irregularly kept, owing to the negligence of parents."

WIGTON.—"The earliest bears date 1701, and is brought down to 1740. After this period, it has been irregularly kept and much neglected until 1800."

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APPENDIX.

The following returns not having been received in time for insertion in their respective counties, while the work was passing through the press, are now added.

ABERDEENSHIRE.

ABERDEEN.—No return.—The session-clerk informs me that—"the marriage register in keeping of the session, commences on 24th January 1776, and has been continuously kept from that time to the present date. There are no blanks. Among the burgh records there is a register of marriages for the city, from 20th August 1568 to 27th April 1686, a few occasional blanks excepted. The town-clerk, and the session-clerk, keeps the baptismal register for the city. It may be observed that although the session's marriage register does not commence earlier than 1776, yet all the marriages *contracted* and *proclaimed* within the city, besides entries of donations to the poor, following on the *celebration* of many of them, are recorded from an early date as sessional transactions in the ordering books of discipline, and might thus be referred to as affording very good evidence in cases of succession or legitimacy."

TYRIE.—No return.—The clergyman informs me that the registers—"containing the entries of births and proclamation of banns begin in the year 1710, and continue, without any blank, to the present time. No record of deaths has been kept. The manuscripts have been well kept, and are in a good state of preservation; but the births and baptisms *recorded* are, I regret to say, few in number, when compared with the children that have actually been born."

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AYRSHIRE.

AYR.—No return.—The session-clerk informs me that:—"The register of births and baptisms in this parish commences January 1664, and continues down to 26th January 1720. Commences again on 26th June 1721, and continues down to the present date. The register of marriages in the parish of Ayr commences 18th November 1687, and continues down to 13th February 1708. One marriage recorded on 31st October 1708. One marriage recorded on 12th October 1711. The record again commences August 1714, and continues down to the present date. The register of deaths in the parish of Ayr commences 13th March 1766, and continues down to November 1786. Three deaths recorded in 1787. The register commences again 31st January 1789, and continues down to 10th September 1806. Two deaths are recorded in the year 1816. The record then commences on 7th January 1817, and continues down to present date. Many births in this parish are not recorded. In particular the Roman Catholics do not record the births of any of their children."

EDINBURGHSHIRE.

LEITH (SOUTH).—No return.—The clergyman informs me that the registers are as follows:—"Contracts of marriage, from 27th February 1595 to 1st December 1642; and from 18th April 1629 to 21st December 1639. Purposes of marriage, from February 1609 to 9th August 1616. Register of marriages, from 4th January 1640 to 25th October 1696, and from 29th November 1687 to 16th December 1660; from 13th October 1692 to 1st April 1849. Births and baptisms, from 29th November 1599 to 31st December 1620. Register of baptisms, from 28th August 1687 to 30th April 1691. Births and baptisms, from 1st January 1643 to 28th August 1791, and continued onwards to this present second day of April 1849. Register of burials, from May 1704 to 13th March 1742, and from January 1743 to the

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present second day of April 1849. The register of burials in this churchyard for the years 1760, 1761, 1770 and 1771, are imperfect."

ELGIN OR MORAYSHIRE.

DRAINIE.—No return.—The clergyman informs me that:—" The records of births in the parish of Drainie commence in 1631, and have been kept with manifest care and regularity, with the exception of a large blank that occurs from the year 1650 to 1722, when they are resumed and regularly kept till the present time. It is probable that the troubles in the country consequent on the death of Charles the First may have, to a certain extent, been the cause of the blank referred to. The record of marriages commences in 1722 and has been regularly kept till the present date. The record of deaths also commences in 1722, and has likewise been kept with care, with the exception of a blank of six years, from 1839 to 1845. While it is stated that these registers are kept with regularity and fidelity, it must be admitted that from the negligence of relatives in reporting to the session-clerk, there may have been occasional births or deaths unrecorded; but a large majority, the writer of this believes, have been regularly registered."

FIFESHIRE.

FERRY-PORT-ON-CRAIG.—No return.—The clergyman reports on the records, as follows:—1st. A register of marriages and births, containing also the church discipline, and receipt and expenditure of the session, commencing 1635, and ending 1692. 2nd. A register of births and marriages commencing 1693, and ending 1772. 3rd. Register of the session of Ferry, containing the discipline, collections and distributions, commencing 1693, and ending 1755. In the first page of this register mention is made of a register of deaths and burials. The only register of deaths in possession of the session is the current register, commencing 1783. These three registers are well kept and in tolerable preservation. 4th. A cash book

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commencing 1756, and ending 1819 tolerably well kept and in excellent preservation. 5th. The current book of discipline commencing 1756, tolerably well kept up to 1823, exceedingly well kept since that time, and in excellent preservation. 6th. The current cash book commencing 1819, tolerably well kept till 1823, exceedingly well kept since that time, and in excellent preservation. 7th. The current register of marriages and births commencing 1772, well kept up till 1821, exceedingly well kept since that time, and in excellent preservation. 8th. The current register of deaths commencing 1783, well kept up till 1822, exceedingly well kept since that time, and in excellent preservation."

FORFARSHIRE.

EDZELL.—No return.—The clergyman informs me that—"the register of baptisms and marriages commences in 1684, and is intermixed with the other records of the kirk-session down to 1703. From 1703 to 1715 there appears to be no regular register of baptisms and marriages. There are, however, a few baptisms registered on a fly-leaf in 1706. In March 1715, a separate register of baptisms and marriages is commenced and continued down to the present time, with the exception of the following breaks, viz., a break in the register of both baptisms and marriages from May 1719 to March 1721, occasioned by there being neither minister nor session-clerk in the parish during that interval, and a break in the register of marriages from January 1791 to December 1804. No proper register of deaths has ever been kept in the parish.—The other records of the kirk-session commence in 1641. In some places the books appear to have been well kept, and in others, indifferently."

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